

## Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

There are more than 50 species of mosquitoes in Suffolk County. Some are able to transmit infection. It is important for residents to take action to reduce the risk of infection by decreasing the mosquitoes around their homes.

### West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the U.S. It can be spread by the *Culex pipiens* mosquito, also known as the northern house mosquito, which is common in Suffolk County. It bites from dusk to dawn.

### Chikungunya, Dengue & Zika Virus

Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika viruses are spread primarily by the bite of infected *Aedes* species mosquitoes. *Aedes* mosquitoes will bite at any time during the day or night.

#### More about *Aedes* mosquitoes

- According to CDC, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are more capable of spreading these viruses than *Aedes albopictus* (also known as Asian Tiger) mosquitoes.
- Currently, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are not found in New York.
- The *Aedes albopictus* has been found in Suffolk County since 2004.
- *Aedes albopictus* is not currently known to transmit Zika virus in New York.
- For up-to-date information on where *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes have been found, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html>

### Dengue

Globally, dengue is the most common mosquito-borne disease, with 40 percent of the world's population living in areas with dengue virus transmission. In the U.S., outbreaks of dengue have occurred in the south and Hawaii.

### Chikungunya

Historically, Chikungunya has occurred in other parts of the world. In recent years, cases of locally acquired chikungunya virus infections were reported in the Caribbean and Florida.

### Zika

Zika virus can be spread through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito, sexual contact, or blood transfusions. (See more about *Aedes* mosquitoes on prior panel.) It can also be passed from mother to fetus during pregnancy. Zika virus outbreaks are occurring in areas of South and Central America and the Caribbean. CDC believes Zika virus will continue to spread and it will be difficult to determine how and where it will spread over time.

### Travel

Currently, Zika outbreaks are occurring in many countries. Take precautions before travelling. Visit the CDC's website for current information. [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information)

### Additional Resources

#### Suffolk County Department of Public Works:

<http://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/VectorControl.aspx>

If you have a concern about mosquitoes or to report an abandoned/stagnant swimming pool or standing water contact Suffolk County Vector Control: 631-852-4270

#### Suffolk County Department of Health Services

[www.suffolkcountyny.gov](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov)

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov>

#### New York State Department of Health:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika\\_virus/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/)

### Questions?

Call the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Information Line:  
631-787-2200

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# Get the Buzz on Mosquito Protection



from  
**Suffolk County**  
Department of Health  
Services

**5 IMPORTANT STEPS**  
To Protect You and Your Family  
from Mosquito-Borne Illness

## Protection

Some mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn, but others will bite any time of day.

- When possible, wear protective clothing with long sleeves and long pants.
- Use repellents that are EPA approved, with EPA labeling on the product.



- Be sure to reapply repellent as often as indicated on the label.
- Be sure to follow label directions.
- Do NOT spray repellent on skin under clothing.
- If you are using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and repellent second.
- Use fans outdoors to prevent mosquitoes from flying around you.

### If you have a baby or child

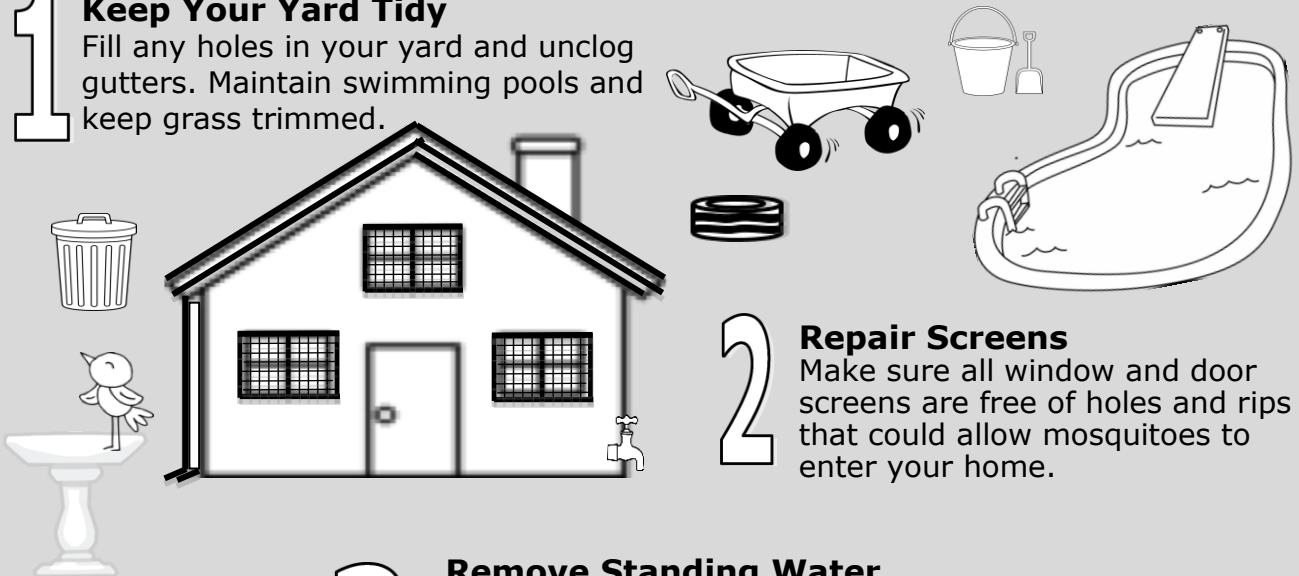
- When possible, dress children in protective clothing with long sleeves and long pants.
- Do NOT use repellent on babies younger than two months old.
- Cover baby carriages with mosquito nets.
- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and cut or irritated skin.
- Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.

## Five Important Steps to Protection

You are the first line of defense against mosquitoes around your home. Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. Even small amounts of water can act as breeding sites for mosquitoes. These five steps done weekly will help reduce mosquitoes in your yard.

### 1 Keep Your Yard Tidy

Fill any holes in your yard and unclog gutters. Maintain swimming pools and keep grass trimmed.

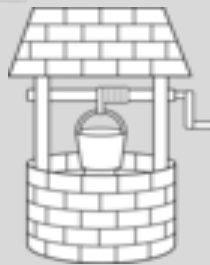


### 2 Repair Screens

Make sure all window and door screens are free of holes and rips that could allow mosquitoes to enter your home.

### 3 Remove Standing Water

Dump water from outdoor items such as children's toys, birdbaths, planters, dog bowls, and garbage cans. Turn over, cover, or drill holes in the bottom of the items that can hold water and are left outside, like garbage cans.



### 4 Scrub Items that Hold Water

After you dump water from a container, mosquito eggs may remain on the sides, even if you cannot see them. Scrubbing items clean will remove these eggs.

### 5 Prepare

Get ready for mosquito season by having EPA approved repellents on hand.

