

Here is some general information about mosquitoes in this area and St Louis County's Vector Control program:

Mosquitoes

Daytime-biting mosquito species do not currently transmit diseases to people in St Louis County. Of these species, the most common is the Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), which does transmit dog heartworm. The Tiger Mosquito is capable of transmitting Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue viruses, but these viruses are not native to the Midwestern U.S. If a person travels abroad and brings one of these viruses back to St Louis it is possible that there could be transmission of the virus into the local Tiger Mosquito population. However, this has not been observed to date, partly due to the fact that the virus remains in the human bloodstream for a relatively brief period of time. Due to the rarity of local transmission of the virus in places like Florida and Texas, the probability of local transmission occurring here is believed to be low.

Nighttime-biting mosquitoes of health importance in St Louis County are of the genus *Culex*. The most common, *Culex pipiens* (the little brown house mosquito) come out around sunset and can transmit West Nile Virus and other types of encephalitis to people. These are the mosquitoes we are targeting with our spraying program.

Vector Control's Larviciding Program

We inspect standing water for mosquitoes on public property or where there are utility easements (creeks, ditches, power lines, etc). The sites are checked about one time per month. If one is likely to breed mosquitoes we treat it with a larvicide that lasts for approximately 45 days.

Vector Control's Adulticiding Program

We fog for adult mosquitoes five nights per week, beginning sometime in May and continuing through September. Residents may call 615-4BUG (615-4284) after 6 pm to learn where we are spraying on a given night. An alternative to calling the number above is to sign up to receive an email alert indicating that we will be spraying in your neighborhood that night – just send an Email to tnoftsinger@stlouisco.com with your name and street address and ask to receive Spray Email Alerts.

It is not necessary to call us in order for us to come out and spray, we typically spray where trapping indicates the mosquito problem (i.e., disease threat) is worst. If people do wish to call and request spraying they may do so by calling 314-615-0680, but please remember that we must give highest priority to:

- * where we trap the largest numbers of mosquitoes, and
- * where the mosquitoes are testing positive for West Nile Virus and other diseases.

Some portion of South Central St Louis County (which includes Ladue) is fogged on Thursdays. Please note that only a small percentage of that region is sprayed on a given night; no single area is sprayed every week. Fogging is done from sunset until 11:20 p.m. (or rarely, the following morning from 3:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.).

What Can A Resident Do About Mosquitoes?

The first place to start is to eliminate any standing water on your property. Check those flower pots, corrugated drainage pipes, birdbaths, etc. Alternately, you may purchase a mosquito larvicide (dunks or pellets) from the hardware store to place in standing water that cannot be dumped weekly.

Another treatment method is to apply a mosquito barrier spray to bushes (also available from the hardware store and relatively inexpensive; look for one that hooks up to a garden hose). Be sure to follow the product label. There are also private companies that will come and spray a resident's yard for a fee.

We encourage people to avoid outdoor activities around sunrise and sunset if possible, or to wear long pants and use insect repellent if you will be outside when the mosquitoes are biting.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

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