

What You Need to Know About Aerial Spraying



Mosquito control districts or local government departments track mosquito populations to learn where viruses, like Zika or West Nile, are spreading in a community. When people in a large area are getting sick or large numbers of mosquitoes are found, airplanes can treat very large areas with insecticides safely, quickly, and efficiently. This process is called aerial spraying.

Aerial spraying is used to:

- ◆ Control and reduce the number of mosquitoes, some of which can spread viruses.
- ◆ Help reduce your chances of getting infected with viruses.

What are airplanes spraying?

Airplanes spray products that quickly kill both mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes to reduce the number of mosquitoes in an area.

- ◆ Larvicides kill larvae that hatch from eggs within 1-4 days, depending on the product. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/controlling-mosquitoes-larval-stage>
- ◆ Adulticides kill adult mosquitoes immediately, but do not provide long-lasting control. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

How does aerial spraying work?

- ◆ Airplanes spray very low volumes of either adulticide or larvicide into areas where mosquitoes are spreading viruses.
- ◆ Aerial spraying occurs sometime between the early evening, close to sunset, and the early morning, close to sunrise.
- ◆ Aerial spraying is more effective and faster than truck-mounted or handheld sprayers in treating large areas of land.

How will I know aerial spraying is going to take place?

The dates and times of aerial sprayings will be announced in the local newspaper, on district websites, through public service announcements, by telephone, or through door-to-door campaigns.

Do I need to leave the area during aerial spraying?

You do not need to leave an area during aerial spraying. You aren't likely to breathe or touch anything that has enough insecticide on it to harm you.



Airplane spraying either adulticide or larvicide onto targeted areas. Photo courtesy of Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board

Information on Insecticides and Health:

- ◆ The [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) oversees the registration of these chemicals.
- ◆ The [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) provides information online or through a toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378.

If you are experiencing health problems for any reason, see your doctor or healthcare provider.