

# Did You Know: Important Information about Aerial Spraying for Mosquito Control



When airplanes are used to spray a large area with a very small amount of insecticide to kill either the mosquito larvae that hatch from eggs or adult mosquitoes, it's called aerial spraying. Aerial spraying is a safe, quick, and efficient way to help control mosquitoes that can carry viruses and make people sick.

## You may have heard about aerial spraying, but did you know

**Insecticides used for aerial spraying have been studied for their effectiveness and safety when used according to label instructions.** The small amount that is sprayed is not a health risk for people or pets in the area.

**Aerial spraying is the preferred method for applying insecticide when people are getting sick with viruses that mosquitoes can carry like Zika, dengue, chikungunya, or West Nile.** It has been successfully used in the United States for decades.

**During aerial spraying, a small amount of insecticide is sprayed over an area, about an 1 ounce (two tablespoons) per acre (4,046 square meters) or about the size of some soccer fields.** Each local mosquito control district or government decides which insecticide to spray in an area. The insecticide must be EPA-registered and applied by a licensed professional according to label instructions.

**You do not need to do anything to prepare for aerial spraying.** If you prefer to stay inside and close windows and doors when spraying occurs you can, but it is not necessary.

**Dates, times, and locations of aerial sprayings will be announced by mosquito control districts or local governments before they take place.** Spraying occurs when mosquitoes are active, sometime between the early evening, close to sunset, and the early morning, close to sunrise.

**Aerial spraying does not cause long-term harm to the environment or local ecosystem, even if the spraying happens more than once.** Spraying takes place when most insects, including honey bees, are not active, making them less likely to be affected by spraying. When used as recommended, insecticides are not poisonous to plants or harmful to pets, birds, fish, or other wildlife in water.

**Aerial spraying quickly reduces the number of mosquitoes in an area, but does not provide long-lasting mosquito control.** Aerial spraying is just one way to help control mosquitos in an area. People are encouraged to continue mosquito control activities in and around their home.

**Mosquito Control: You Have Options.**

Learn more: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home.html>



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