



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

Health Advisory #15 Pesticide Spraying to Reduce Mosquito Activity and Control West Nile Virus in New York City

July 22, 2022

Please Distribute to Staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

As we do every summer, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) will spray pesticide from trucks in neighborhoods where our surveillance finds rising numbers of mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus. The first spray events of this season will take place in parts of Queens and Staten Island beginning **Tuesday, July 26, 2022**, from 8:30 P.M. through 6:00 A.M. the following morning. If weather does not permit, spraying will be delayed until Wednesday, **July 27, 2022**. Neighborhoods in Queens include parts of Bayside, Bay Terrace, Beechhurst, and Whitestone and zip codes affected include parts of 11357, 11358, 11360, and 11361. Neighborhoods in Staten Island include parts of Arrochar, Dongan Hills, Grant City, Midland Beach, New Dorp, New Dorp Beach, Old Town, and South Beach and zip codes affected include parts of 10304, 10305, and 10306.

The City will use a very low rate of Anvil[®], Duet[®] or MERUS[®] 3.0, containing the active ingredients sumithrin (Anvil), sumithrin plus prallethrin (Duet) or natural pyrethrins (MERUS[®] 3.0), for its adult mosquito control efforts. Thorough environmental review and epidemiologic analyses have shown that the public, in general, is not expected to experience symptoms given the low level of exposure during these spraying events. Some individuals, however, may be particularly sensitive to ingredients in the pesticides and may experience adverse reactions. Such individuals could experience transient effects, such as skin, eye and mucous membrane irritation, as well as exacerbation of chronic conditions, such as asthma or other respiratory conditions.

The NYC Health Department advises persons to stay indoors during the ground spraying of pesticides. For additional information regarding Anvil[®], Duet[®] or MERUS[®] 3.0 and other mosquito control products, please see our website at: nyc.gov/health/wnv. Also, please call 311 or contact us at mosquito@health.nyc.gov if you would like a copy of the Anvil[®], Duet[®], and MERUS[®] 3.0 labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) faxed or mailed to your office.

If you suspect a patient may have pesticide poisoning, contact the New York City Poison Control Center (NYC PCC). A confirmed or suspected pesticide poisoning is reportable under the provisions of the New York City Health Code and the New York State Sanitary Code. Providers must report such poisonings to the NYC PCC at 212-764-7667 (212-POISONS) and to the New York State Department of Health, Pesticide Poisoning Registry at (800)-322-6850.

Physicians and health care providers play a critical role in the detection and prevention of West Nile virus outbreaks. Please remind your patients that they can take precautions against mosquito bites, by wearing protective clothing and using insect repellents. Mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 can be effective when applied before going outdoors in areas where mosquitoes are active. Always remind patients to use repellents in accordance with the label instructions and in a concentration best suited to the individual.

For more information on West Nile virus and to see scheduled mosquito control activities, visit nyc.gov/health/wnv.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corinne Schiff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Corinne" being more prominent than the last name "Schiff".

Corinne Schiff
Deputy Commissioner
Environmental Health