



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

Health Advisory #23

Pesticide Spraying to Reduce Mosquito Activity and Control West Nile Virus Continues in New York City

September 16, 2022

Please Distribute to Staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) continues to spray pesticide from trucks in neighborhoods where our surveillance finds rising numbers of mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus. The next spray events of this season will take place in parts of Queens and the Bronx beginning **Tuesday, September 20, 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, **September 21, 2022**. Spraying in additional parts of Queens will take place on **Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 8:30 P.M. through 6:00 A.M. the following morning**. If weather does not permit, spraying will be delayed until **Monday, September 26, 2022**.

To see where the NYC Health Department is conducting spray events visit [Mosquito Control - NYC Health](#).

The City will use a very low rate of Anvil® containing the active ingredients sumithrin, or Duet® containing sumithrin plus prallethrin, 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® 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® or Duet® 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,



Corinne Schiff

Deputy Commissioner

Environmental Health