



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Mary Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

## 2017 HEALTH ADVISORY #16 Pesticide Spraying Notification to Reduce Mosquito Activity and Control West Nile Virus in Queens and Staten Island

July 18, 2017

Please Distribute to Staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine

### **Pesticide Spraying Notification to Reduce Mosquito Activity in Queens and Staten Island**

Weather permitting, pesticide application by trucks is scheduled for *Thursday, July 20*, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the following morning in the following locations:

**Queens: Part of Astoria, Ditmars, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Steinway, Sunnyside Gardens and Woodside**

**Staten Island: Parts of Bull's Head, Elm Park, Castleton Corners, Chelsea, Graniteville, Heartland Village, Westerleigh and Willowbrook**

#### **Zip Codes Affected**

**Queens: Parts of 11101, 11103, 11105, 11369, 11370, 11371, 11377**

**Staten Island: Parts of 10301, 10302, 10310, 10314**

The spraying schedule and a map of areas to be treated is available at [www.nyc.gov/health/wnv](http://www.nyc.gov/health/wnv). In the event of rain, high winds or equipment malfunction, spraying may be delayed.

**Dear Colleagues,**

Due to rising numbers of mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will spray pesticide from trucks in the above-listed neighborhoods beginning on **Thursday, July 20, 2017** from 10:00 P.M. through 6:00 A.M. the following morning. If weather does not permit, or equipment malfunctions occur, spraying will be delayed until **Monday, July 24, 2017**.

The City will use a very low rate of DUET<sup>®</sup>, containing the active ingredients sumithrin and prallethrin, and the synergist piperonyl butoxide 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 DOHMH advises persons to stay indoors during the ground spraying of pesticides. For additional information regarding DUET and other mosquito control products, please see our website at: [nyc.gov/health/wnv](http://nyc.gov/health/wnv). Also, please call 311 or 646-632-6602 if you would like a copy of the DUET<sup>®</sup> label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) faxed or mailed to your office.

**We encourage physicians to contact the New York City Poison Control Center (NYC PCC) if they suspect a patient may have pesticide poisoning. 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.**

As a reminder, physicians and other 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 mosquito control activities, visit:

NYC DOHMH: [nyc.gov/health/wnv](http://nyc.gov/health/wnv)

CDC: [cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/](http://cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/)

Sincerely,

*Corinne Schiff*  
**Corinne Schiff, JD**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**Environmental Health**

**Categories of urgency levels for NYC DOHMH Broadcast Notification System:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action