

MAFES Dawg Tracks

July 16, 2018



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Ticks & Mosquitoes

Mosquito and tick-related illnesses are increasing in Mississippi and the rest of the country. In a report released earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control found the number of cases of disease from mosquito, tick and flea bites has more than tripled between 2004 and 2016.

The most common mosquito-borne illness in Mississippi has been West Nile Virus. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever remains the most common tick-borne illness. Mississippi has seen less of Lyme disease and its famous bullseye rash. Tick-borne illnesses are treatable, but they should be taken seriously. People who develop a fever, especially with a rash, after being bitten by a tick, should seek medical attention.

The summer and early fall are the most active times for mosquito and tick-related diseases in Mississippi.

Protective clothing and repellent are good first lines of defense.

Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#) with one of the active ingredients below. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

- DEET
- Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the US)
- IR3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)
- Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
- 2-undecanone

Reapply insect repellent as directed.

Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.

If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.

How to Remove Ticks:

Even though you may have heard that petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, hot match, or other folklore ideas are good ways to remove a tick, all these methods have been proven ineffective or actually cause greater problems.

- (1) Use blunt forceps or tweezers;
- (2) Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure;
- (3) Take care not to squeeze, crush, or puncture the tick;
- (4) Do not handle the tick with bare hands because infectious agents may enter via mucus membranes or breaks in the skin;
- (5) After removing the tick, disinfect the bite site and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Control Mosquitoes:

- ✓ Remove standing water where mosquitoes could lay eggs - Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, or trash containers. If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito. Mosquitoes lay eggs near water.
- ✓ Kill mosquitoes - Use an insect spray made to kill mosquitoes in areas where they rest. Mosquitoes rest in dark, humid areas like under patio furniture, or under the carport or garage. When using insecticides, always follow label instructions.
- ✓ Keep mosquitoes out - Install or repair and use window and door screens. Do not leave doors propped open.

For more info contact – Leslie Woolington
MAFES /MSU-EXTENSION
Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control
(662) 325-3204

Sources:

- http://www.djournal.com/news/mosquitoes-ticks-spreading-more-disease-in-mississippi-nation/article_4643c39f-a0b5-5ca4-b4fb-007dcff0d3cb.html
- <http://mafes.msstate.edu/publications/bulletins/b1150.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prevent-bites.html>