



Community Action Alert



Concerned About the Harmful Effects of Pesticide Spraying?

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Mosquito Control Division uses permethrin-based synthetic insecticides (pyrethroids) to control vector-borne diseases including West Nile Virus (WNV) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). HCPH sprays in a controlled manner, and only sprays in areas where mosquitoes are found with diseases or in times of declared emergencies when there are more mosquitoes, such as during flood events. The mission of HCPH is to protect the health and safety of the community.

Environmental Justice (EJ) communities are often burdened with infrastructure issues such as lack of sidewalks, illegal dumping, and ditches with standing water which can harbor mosquitoes. EJ communities may therefore be more prone to mosquito spraying than non-EJ communities. Children and adults with asthma, beekeepers, and others who are concerned about the harmful effects of spraying on humans or wildlife may choose to avoid pyrethroids, which can cause allergic reactions in some people and are toxic to beneficial insects, birds and bats that eat mosquitoes. You can actively reduce your exposure to pyrethroids by knowing these tips:

Did You Know You Can Reduce the Impacts of Spraying?

- Request a property inspection by HCPH Mosquito Control Division. HCPH will visually inspect your property and nearby abandoned properties to reduce mosquito breeding areas. To request an inspection, visit HCPH Mosquito Control services at: <https://secure.hcpheh.org/MC/InspectionRequest.html>
- Find out when spraying will take place in your neighborhood. Check HCPH proposed spray dates and disease-positive mosquito maps at: <http://www.hcphtx.org/Services-Programs/All-Services/Mosquito-Control-Services#Proposed-Treatment>
- Add your property to the HCPH **“DO NOT SPRAY LIST”** to restrict spraying.
- Download HCPH’s mobile app: <http://www.hcphtx.org/About/Organization-Offices/Environmental-Public-Health/Mobile-App>

Before spraying takes place in your area -

- Cover all outdoor furniture and grills
- Bring pet dishes and children’s toys inside

After spraying -

- Wash all fruits and vegetables exposed to spraying
- Rinse any uncovered items left outside before using again

During spraying -

- Keep family members and pets inside during spraying and for 30 minutes afterwards
- Close windows and doors

Beekeepers -

- Cover colonies before spraying or relocate colonies to an untreated site
- Provide clean sources of food and water during and after spraying

GET ON THE DO NOT SPRAY LIST

Contact Harris County Public Health Mosquito Control: (713) 440-4800 or visit: www.hcphtx.org/mc



For more information, contact Lone Star Legal Aid’s Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) at: (713) 652-0077 Ext. 8108