

The City of Newport News Vector Control Program is based on ecological, economical, and social principals and integrates multidisciplinary methodologies in developing pest management strategies that are practical and effective. Our focus is geared to protect public health and improve the quality of life for Newport News residents and visitors. Every effort is made to minimize the negative consequences of mosquito control on the environment. The City of Newport News works in cooperation with state and local health agencies and universities who employ entomologists and environmental specialists that provides assistance in the evaluation of environmental impacts. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides both individual and agency certifications to ensure that the technicians and the agency as a whole is in compliance with state regulations as defined by Title 3.2 Chapter 39 Article 3 of the Code of Virginia.

The City of Newport News employs several methods of mosquito control prior to deciding upon the use of chemical methods. Relying on data obtained from resident service requests and technician observation and testing, the first line of defense is the elimination of breeding sources. The City has also employed the use of natural predators such as certain breeds of fish in order to diminish mosquito populations in geographic areas that naturally promote breeding. When chemical control becomes necessary; preference is given to chemicals that pose a minimum negative impact to humans and the environment. The chemical applicators are certified in Public Health Pest Control in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act 72USC 2601, 4CFR 152-707 7USC 136. The City provides residents with accurate and precise advance information on when and where pesticide will be applied so that appropriate action may be taken to protect themselves, pets, and domestic animals (including managed honeybee colonies). All chemicals utilized are approved by the USDA, EPA, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Summary of Newport News Mosquito Control Process:

1. Public outreach and education: City websites, news releases, news features, email subscriber list, and other social media will be used to provide the public with pertinent educational information.
2. Surveillance: Monitor potential vector(s) using various mosquito traps and larval surveys; properly identifying larval and adult samples collected will allow for a more targeted response.
3. Control: The City's Vector Control Division will continue to expand our larvicide efforts. This is the most effective control method (along with education). Industrial areas will be inspected. However, inspection of citizens' homes will be conducted per request. Truck fogging will also be utilized as a control measure.