



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

HHS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Subject:	Mosquito Control Policy
Date of Origin:	06/06/2012
Policy Number:	EHS-Vector Control-001

POLICY:

Adult Mosquito Nuisance Control

Moderate to large numbers of mosquitoes can adversely impact the quality of life for citizens and visitors to New Hanover County. In recognition and response, the New Hanover County Health and Human Services Board establishes this policy addressing implementation of measures to control adult mosquito populations in residential areas of New Hanover County.

The adult mosquito population must meet or exceed a minimum density to justify the application of pesticide. NHCHHS uses two measurements to assess density of the adult mosquito population: (1) light traps, and (2) landing rate counts.

The minimum light trap collection per night to warrant spraying of pesticide with ULV ground application equipment is 100 female mosquitoes of a species known to feed on humans. The minimum landing rate threshold to initiate ULV ground spraying is five (5) to ten (10) mosquitoes within a minute based on the species and the habitat as determined by NHCHHS staff.

Service requests alone, i.e., complaints, do not provide sufficient justification for adult mosquito nuisance control. However, service requests will result in increased mosquito surveillance by NHCHHS staff. NHCHHS staff will respond to a service request within three (3) business days after the request is received. Upon making a site visit, NHCHHS staff will assess the outdoor environment, provide education on mosquitoes, and make recommendations on the best control methods including source reduction, and larvicide and/or adulticide applications.

Exclusions of Property from Adult Mosquito Nuisance Control Spraying

An individual may have his/her owned or leased property excluded from mosquito control nuisance treatment. This exclusion may include a buffer of approximately 300 feet around the property. Everyone requesting this exclusion must submit the request in writing to NHCHHS and provide a copy to the appropriate functional community association. The request must include the address of the property to be excluded from spraying, the reason for the exclusion, and must be signed by the owner(s) or lessee(s). Annual updates are required of requests for exclusion from spraying.

If the number of individual objectors and/or location of the excluded property preclude an effective mosquito control adulticide service for a community, the service may be suspended. Adult mosquito control service may be reinstated to the community upon written request to NHCHHS from the local authority (city, town, or functional community association) if continuation of the mosquito control service is determined to be in the best interest of the public. All disputes regarding this issue will be settled by the local authority (city, town, or functional community association).

NHCHHS will notify individuals who have filed requests for exclusion of decisions by the local authority and/or requests to reinstate service. Upon reinstatement of mosquito control adulticide service, NHCHHS may attempt to exclude the application of pesticide immediately adjacent to the property of individual(s) requesting the exclusion but will not commit to providing an approximated 300 feet buffer around property as a factor in settling the dispute.

Adult Mosquito Control to Protect Public Health from Mosquito-Borne Disease

West Nile encephalitis and eastern equine encephalitis are the primary mosquito-borne diseases that can adversely impact human health in New Hanover County. However, there are other arboviruses and parasites that exist in nature that can be transported from other regions by mosquitoes. If any mosquito-borne disease becomes a real or imminent public health threat, adult mosquito control will be a priority issue. Under such conditions, spray exclusion zones will not be recognized, and the action thresholds may be lowered. NHCHHS will exercise all means possible to reduce the adult mosquito population to the lowest level possible within any delineated area where potential disease transmission to humans is a threat

Public Avoidance and Impedance of Adult Mosquito Control Activities

Although an individual's chances of experiencing any negative health effects from mosquito control spraying are quite low, it is still wise to reduce exposures to pesticides during spraying activities. Announcements of planned mosquito control spraying activities/schedules will be posted on the NHCHHS website and made available to the local media. Citizens may also sign up to receive mosquito spraying notifications via telephone through the NHC Health and Human Services website. The best choice for reducing pesticide exposure is to remain indoors while mosquito control applications are underway in the immediate vicinity. NEVER allow children to play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when mosquito control pesticide is being dispersed. Sound from the spray unit is indicative of its operation. Do not rely on visual evidence of emission from the spray unit to verify active operation. Individuals should not impede NHCHD from applying mosquito control pesticide by obstructing the path or following within 300 feet of the spray truck.

Exclusion Procedure

NHCHHS procedure addressing objection to adult mosquito nuisance control by truck mounted ULV application of pesticide is as follows:

An individual may have his/her owned or leased real property and a surrounding buffer up to 300 feet on all sides of the property excluded from ground based ULV adult mosquito nuisance control treatment with the concurrence and signatures of adjacent occupants of two separate properties. The requirement for concurrence of adjacent property occupants is in acknowledgement that an exclusion buffer would affect adult mosquito control by ULV spraying for those properties. A property separated by a vehicular street or road from the subject parcel requesting exclusion shall constitute an adjacent property for purposes of consent.

Each individual requesting exclusion must file a written submittal to NHCHHS by completing an "*Adult Mosquito Nuisance Control Exclusion Form*" and must provide copies to the appropriate functional community association. All information denoted on the form must be supplied for the request to be processed by NHCHHS. The completed form must provide a complete description of the property to be excluded and must be signed by the owner(s) or lessee(s).

If the number of individual objectors, and/or the location of excluded properties preclude an effective mosquito control adulticide service for a community, the service in that community will be suspended. Adult mosquito control service may be reinstated to the community upon the written request of the local authority (city, town, or functional community association), and further evaluation with favorable recommendation by NHCHHS legal counsel.

A city, town or functional community homeowner association may request NHCHHS to rescind or modify a spray exclusion zone if they demonstrate the exemption adversely impacts other residents who desire adult mosquito nuisance control service. Appeals to rescind or modify spray exclusion requests must be made in writing and submitted for evaluation to NHCHHS. The party (parties) having originally requested the exclusion shall be given notice of the request to rescind/modify.

NHCHHS may periodically verify the continued occupancy/ownership by objectors of properties excluded from ULV ground spraying.

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Registered Beehives and Apiaries:

In appreciation of our beekeeping community and as stewards of the environment, NHCHHS will also provide an exclusion buffer of 300 feet from the property lines that contain beehives that have been registered through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Drift watch program or the North Carolina Field watch program from which NHCHHS receives notification.

OTHER INFORMATION:

In the event of mosquito-borne disease or conditions that threaten the public’s health, the suspension of mosquito adulticide service in an area due to objectors will be discontinued and the full rand of available mosquito control resources will be expediently launched.

REFERENCES:

www.nhcgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/1567/Spray-Exclusion-Form-PDF?bidId=

CHANGE HISTORY:

Version	Date	Comments
A	06/06/2012	Original document
B	1/25/2022	Updated document with HHS and procedures
C	1/10/2023	Updated county website link
Annual Review		12/5/2022, 01/10/2023