



Vision:
100% Student Success

Mission:
"Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life."

August 25, 2016

Dear Parent,

As the 2016-17 school year begins, our principals, teachers and staff are excited to welcome students back to the classroom and we have been hard at work preparing for another great year in Pinellas. This year's preparations include Zika prevention efforts to ensure all students, parents, educators and school visitors stay healthy and safe.

As your District Superintendent, I assure you we are working closely with the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Education to monitor the situation and take appropriate action to protect our students.

As part of our partnership, we are taking the following steps:

- Sharing the Florida Department of Health's Spill the Water! kid-friendly materials to help educators integrate into classrooms important health messages on preventing mosquito bites and draining standing water;
- Ensuring our school clinic nurses and staff receive training from the Florida Department of Health on Zika prevention and symptom identification; and
- Conducting mosquito reduction activities around our campuses by getting rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed and coordinating with local mosquito control if spraying is needed.

There are several simple measures you can take to protect yourself and your family from exposure and help prevent further spread.

What you should know:

- Zika symptoms are generally mild, but it has been linked to severe birth defects if a woman contracts the virus during pregnancy.
- There is no vaccine to prevent Zika, and there is no specific treatment for infected individuals.
- Zika is primarily spread by the bites of infected mosquitoes.

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Recommended actions:

- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing to cover skin while outdoors. Wear socks that cover ankles and lower legs.
- Cover exposed skin with an Environmental Protection Agency-approved insect repellent. Always follow product instructions when applying. If using sunscreen, apply that first and then apply repellent.
- Eliminate sources of standing water (e.g., bird baths, pet bowls, buckets, trash bins) around your home or property. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one teaspoon – or bottle cap of water – so eliminating even very small amounts of standing water can go a long way to reducing the mosquito population near you.
- Make sure windows and doors are covered by screens to keep mosquitoes outside.

We are looking forward to a successful school year and we will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to maintain the safety and well-being of our students and families.

If you have any additional questions about Zika, please call the Florida Department of Health's Zika Information Hotline at 1-855-622-6735 or visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Grego". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Grego, Ed.D
Superintendent



Mosquito Bite Protection in Florida

FloridaHealth.gov • Florida Department of Health

Not all mosquitoes are the same. Different mosquitoes spread different diseases and bite at different times of the day. Some mosquito species bite during the day, such as those mosquitoes that can spread chikungunya, dengue and Zika viruses. Other species of mosquitoes bite most often at dawn and dusk, including those that can transmit West Nile virus.

Mosquitoes can live indoors and will bite at any time, day or night.



Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents

Wear repellent when you are outdoors. Use products with active ingredients that are safe and effective.

- Always follow the product label instructions.
- Do not spray repellent on skin under clothing.
- If you use sunscreen, put sunscreen on first and insect repellent second.
- It is safe for pregnant or nursing women to use EPA-approved repellents if applied according to package label instructions.
- Learn more: www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents.



USE INSECT REPELLENT WITH ONE OF THESE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



BRAND EXAMPLES*
Overseas brand names may vary.

DEET →→

Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Ultrathon

Picaridin (KBR 3023), Bayrepel and icaridin →→

Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD) →→

Repel

IR3535 →→

Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition, Skin Smart

Higher percentages of active ingredient=longer protection

If you have a baby or child:

- Always follow product instructions when applying insect repellent to children.
- Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.
- Do not apply insect repellent to a child's hands, mouth, cut or irritated skin.
- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months.
- Dress babies or small children in clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Cover cribs, strollers or baby carriers with mosquito netting.



Cover up with clothing

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing. Treat clothes with permethrin or another EPA-registered insecticide for extra protection.



Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

- Permethrin is an insecticide that kills mosquitoes and other insects.
- Buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear (boots, pants, socks, tents), or use permethrin to treat clothing and gear—follow product instructions closely.
- Read product information to find out how long the permethrin will last.
- Do not use permethrin products directly on skin.

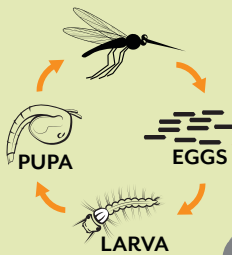
www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes

* The use of commercial names is to provide information about products; it does not represent an endorsement of these products by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

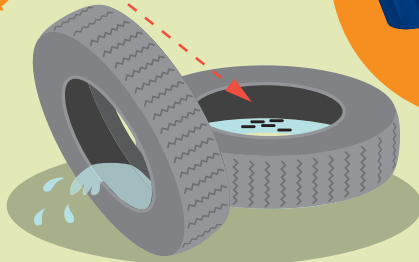
Keep mosquitoes **outside**



Stop mosquitoes from **breeding**



Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in & near standing water.



As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for more than one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.

At your house or business:

Put away items that are outside and not being used because they could hold standing water.



Around all buildings:

At least once a week, empty, turn over or cover anything that could hold water:

- tires
- buckets
- toys
- pools & pool covers
- birdbaths
- trash, trash containers and recycling bins
- boat or car covers
- roof gutters
- coolers
- pet dishes

In your garden:

Keep flower pots and saucers free of standing water. Some plants, such as bromeliads, hold water in their leaves—flush out water-holding plants with your hose once a week.

