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Remember to Drain and Cover

DOH-Collier reminds everyone to help prevent mosquito breeding

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Naples, Fla. —The Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) reminds everyone to do their part in preventing mosquito breeding. All Florida residents and visitors are asked to “Drain and Cover” to help keep our families and neighbors safe; it only takes a bottle cap of water for some mosquitoes to breed and multiply.

To protect against mosquitoes, DOH-Collier urges the public to “Drain and Cover”:

DRAIN standing water:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that are not being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that do not accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER your skin with:

- **CLOTHING** - If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- **REPELLENT** - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30 percent DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.
- **NETTING** - Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens:

- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

TIPS on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites:

- Clean out troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week.
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.

- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

The Department has created a public service announcement on the “Drain and Cover” method, which you can view [here](#).

Click [here](#) for mosquito-borne disease educational materials.

For more information on mosquito-borne illness prevention, visit our [website](#).

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