

Media Release

9 April 2024

Keep yourself protected from mosquitoes

Queensland Health has warned of a heightened risk of Ross River Virus infection across the state after recent surveillance activities revealed a sharp rise in detections of mosquitoes carrying the virus in nine local government areas stretching from Mackay down to south-east Queensland.

Mosquitoes are a part of our natural environment and breed in both fresh and salt water. We cannot eradicate them completely, but we can take precautions to protect ourselves from being bitten.

There are two things that residents can do to protect themselves from mosquitoes:

1) Eliminate breeding areas around the house

- Inspect your house and yard and remove any accumulations of water such as empty pot plant bases
- Clean roof gutters out regularly
- Ensure rainwater tanks are screened
- Keep swimming pools maintained
- Wash out birdbaths, fishponds and ornamental pools weekly.

2) Don't get bitten

- Limit time outdoors at peak biting periods (around dawn and dusk)
- Apply mosquito repellents regularly to exposed skin
- Wear light coloured clothing with long sleeve/long pants when outdoors
- Screen doors and windows, use mosquito nets
- Use mosquito coils or vaporizers.

What is Gladstone Regional Council doing to control mosquitoes?

- Council has a Mosquito Management Plan that we administer, this includes the inspection and treatment of known breeding sites on Council land including parks, gardens, Council facilities, roads and drainage systems
- Throughout the year and particularly from October to May, Council monitor and treat breeding sites to reduce the number of mosquitoes affecting residents
- Due to the sensitive nature of the environment in which mosquitoes breed, only approved, environmentally safe products are used
- Council's preferred option for mosquito control is the use of larvicides. Larvicides kill mosquito larvae and/or prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes
- The use of adulticides (fogging) that kill mosquitoes at the adult stage
 - Threshold triggers need to be met for Council to consider fogging that kill mosquitoes at the adult stage
- Due to the extent of potential breeding sites, it is not always possible to eliminate large adult populations from affecting residential areas. Council will record, investigate and monitor complaints received from the public. However, in some situations, it is impractical to implement control measures.

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/mosquitoes to learn more about how you can protect yourself from mosquitoes. Further information from Queensland Health can be accessed [here](#).

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