

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **McAllen crews to begin mosquito spraying this weekend**

The City of McAllen Health and Code Enforcement will begin mosquito spraying efforts across the entire city this weekend and in areas that have high mosquito populations, weather permitting. Spraying is dependent on weather conditions such as rain and wind speeds.

Spraying will begin at the far north and south end of the city simultaneously. A team of seven sprayers will work their way to the center of town and should be done in approximately two to three days.

**Report mosquito complaints to McAllen 3-1-1 or at 681-3111, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and *24 hours a day, a McAllen code officer is on call at 681-1900.***

McAllen's Health & Code Enforcement Department is controlling mosquito populations in the community by bringing increased focus to eliminating standing water, preventing mosquito larvae from hatching and spraying. Neighborhoods have been surveyed to identify and treat areas of standing water that can serve as prime locations for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. Elimination of standing water is the ultimate goal, but in places where puddles exist, the water can be treated to kill mosquito larvae with a chemical called a larvicide. The department continues to larvicide locations to eliminate mosquito breeding.

Residents may also do their part in keeping mosquitos at bay. Useful tips include:

- Empty or remove cans, buckets, old tires, pots and other containers that hold water
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
- Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
- Cover trash containers.

Safe use of insect repellent with DEET and the use of protective clothing during dawn and dusk outdoor activities is recommended.

Insect repellent use:

- Apply repellents only to exposed skin or clothing—never put it on under clothing. Use just enough to cover and only for as long as needed; heavy doses don't work better.
- Don't apply mosquito repellents over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin or immediately after shaving.
- When applying to your face, spray first on your hands, then rub in, avoiding your eyes and mouth, and using sparingly around ears.
- Don't let young children apply. Instead, put it on your own hands, then rub it on. Limit use on children's hands, because they often put their hands in their eyes and mouths.
- Don't use near food, and wash hands after application and before eating or drinking.
- At the end of the day, wash treated skin with soap and water, and wash treated clothing in a separate wash before wearing again.

For mosquito concerns please call 956-681-3111 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and 956-681-1900 after hours.



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McAllen TX

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