The A-B-C-S of B-I-T-E-S

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Developed by the Fairfax County Health Department
The A-B-C-S of B-I-T-E-S
Asian Tiger Mosquito

The Asian tiger mosquito has a black body and white stripes. Blood is its favorite meal, and it bites during the day.

Blood and Bites

Girl mosquitoes bite to suck blood and get protein to lay eggs.
Corrugated Pipes

Mosquitoes only need a little water to breed. Sometimes they grow in the black drainpipes in your yard.
Dragonfly

Dragonflies eat mosquitoes.
Entomology

Entomology is the study of insects.
Flying

Mosquitoes fly around to find food. They like to stay near cool, shady areas but will travel far in search of blood.
Gutters

Dirty gutters hold water. Make sure an adult keeps them clean.
Mosquitoes hide in the colder months. They will come out in the spring.
Ivy

The Asian tiger mosquito hides in plants like ivy, azaleas, and other shady bushes.

Junk

Cleaning up junk gets rid of places where mosquitoes can breed and also helps the environment.
Kiddie Pools

After you are done playing in the kiddie pool, make sure you have an adult empty all the water out so mosquitoes can't lay their eggs.
Larvae

Larvae are baby mosquitoes that grow in water; you can see them wiggling around.
Mosquitoes are blood-sucking insects that can make you sick.
Nectar

Nectar is sugar water that all mosquitoes use for food. Only girl mosquitoes drink blood.
Outdoor play can be more fun if you keep mosquitoes away.
Mosquitoes use their proboscis, a straw-like mouth, to suck blood.

Questions

The Health Department can answer your questions about mosquitoes.
There are many different types of repellents that keep mosquitoes away.
Surveillance

Surveillance means looking for mosquitoes to see how many there are in your neighborhood.
The County uses many different types of traps to catch mosquitoes.

Trap

There are many different types of traps to catch mosquitoes.
Even underground drainage pipes breed mosquitoes.
A virus is a small germ that can make you sick. Some viruses are carried by mosquitoes.
West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is carried by some mosquitoes and can make you sick.
Examine your yard for breeding sites. See the back of this book for a helpful checklist.
Yard

Keeping your yard clean, neat and free from standing water is the best way to keep mosquitoes away.
Our goal is to have zero people sick with West Nile virus. Help us by doing your part!
Breeding Site Checklist
Use this to help eliminate mosquitoes in your yard.

Get Rid of Standing Water
☐ Plastic containers, trays, etc.
☐ Toys, playhouses, etc.
☐ Planters, flower pots, etc.
☐ Birdbaths, fish ponds, decorative garden fixtures, etc.
☐ Kiddie pools
☐ Old tires, tire swings

Check Drainage
☐ Clean gutters
☐ Remove or make sure corrugated drainpipes on downspouts do not hold water
☐ Clear drainage ditches of trash & junk

Look for Hidden Water
☐ Tarps
☐ Storage sheds
☐ Watering cans
☐ Hoses
The Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP) was established in 2003 to monitor and control mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Fairfax County. Since then, it has expanded to include ticks and tick-borne diseases. The mission of the program is threefold: vector and disease surveillance, vector management and control as well as community education and outreach activities.

The program’s goal is to minimize the impact of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases with an integrated approach to pest management.

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