



# Pollinator Health & Mosquito Control

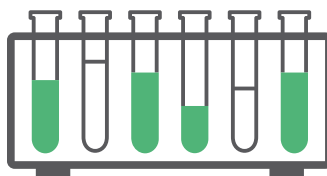
Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Mosquito and Vector Control Division (MVCD) is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the residents of Harris County, Texas. HCPH MVCD uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to responsibly employ targeted control measures to keep our community safe from mosquito-borne diseases. Through the use of IPM methods and strategies including community engagement, together, we can protect pollinators while managing mosquito populations.

## Using IPM strategies to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases

*Mosquito populations are routinely collected and tested for mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), dengue (DEN), chikungunya (CHIK) and Zika (ZIK) viruses.*



**Education programs and informational materials are provided to our community**



**Research is conducted to improve surveillance and control strategies**



**Inspections of public and private properties are conducted to identify and reduce mosquito breeding sources**

*Adulticiding, commonly known as “mosquito spraying”, only occurs when mosquito-borne disease is detected or in the event of a declared emergency when significant increases of mosquito populations have been documented.*

## About mosquito adulticiding

Adulticiding targets adult mosquitoes and is a “last resort” strategy in the IPM toolbox. When mosquito-borne disease is detected in an area, ground-based applications of insecticide are conducted using truck-mounted ultra-low-volume (ULV) equipment to kill flying adult mosquitoes. Utilizing this technology, allows for smaller amounts of product to be used over a larger area, usually at a rate of 3 ounces (or less) of product per acre. The ULV spray applications occur between dusk and dawn to target mosquitoes when they are most active and to avoid day-active pollinators, such as butterflies and bees.

Aerial spraying occurs on a limited basis. This control method is used in areas where accessibility is limited due to minimal road access, heavy vegetation, and/or in larger areas where coverage would require multiple spray trucks. When conducted, notification to the community is provided through traditional media, social media, HCPH website and HCPH mobile app.

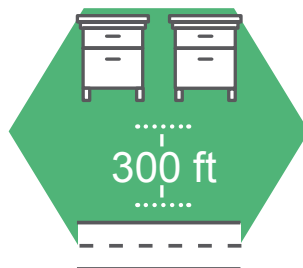
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*Please be aware that private pest control operators and some municipalities also conduct mosquito adulticiding in addition to MVCD.*

## Protecting pollinators during mosquito adulticiding



**Cover hives at night when bees are less active.**



**Keep hives away from the street**—at least 300 feet if possible.



**Create a barrier between the street and your hive**—e.g., hedge bush.



**Learn about proposed mosquito adulticiding in your area.**

## Informing our communities about mosquito adulticiding activities

It is important that mosquito-borne disease affected areas be thoroughly treated to lessen the likelihood of a major disease outbreak. Therefore, MVCD reserves the right to conduct appropriate mosquito adulticiding operations to minimize human exposure and prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

### Residents may request to be notified when mosquito adulticiding is scheduled in their area.

Notifications are provided by phone on the night of the treatment between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### Residents also have the option to request that no mosquito adulticiding take place at the requested property.

Requests can be made by contacting MVCD at (713) 440-4800. MVCD will provide notification and when possible, will restrict mosquito adulticiding at the requested property.



**Current disease activity maps and daily proposed treatment maps can be accessed at our website, [www.hcph.tx.or/mc](http://www.hcph.tx.or/mc), or through our HCPH mobile app.**