



**AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
Office of the Medical Director  
15 Waller St.  
Austin, TX 78702



**Residents of the unincorporated area of Travis County**

To control mosquitos, the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's Rodent and Vector Program follows an Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) approach recommended by the American Mosquito Control Association and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This approach stresses mosquito control by following these steps:

- Drain standing water
- Dress in long sleeves and pants
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn
- Use an insect repellent such as DEET.

The best way to lower the mosquito population is to remove standing water.

The Rodent & Vector program conducted a policy review on the use of chemical spraying by examining the current policies of other jurisdictions within Texas. These policies state chemical spraying is used only when a mosquito has tested positive for arbovirus (i.e. West Nile Virus).

The use of chemical spray to target mosquitoes is generally known as a last resort. The chemical spray only works if it directly contacts a mosquito. The chemical spray contacts about 10 percent of the mosquitoes in treatment areas. Spraying is now being used to lower the mosquito population only in areas where a mosquito has tested positive.

The current policy for chemical spraying has been updated to allow for spraying only after a mosquito has tested positive for disease or when the Health Authority deems spraying is warranted for protection of public health.

The Rodent and Vector program staff will continue to set mosquito traps for testing. A staff member would be glad to conduct a site assessment of your property to determine the extent of the problem and provide recommendations.

To request an assessment or additional information regarding Rodent and Vector services, please call 512-978-0370 or email [EHSD.Service@austintexas.gov](mailto:EHSD.Service@austintexas.gov)

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