



## Multnomah County Health Department

# Adulticide Control Safety Precautions

## Questions & Answers

Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control (MCVNC) is one of nine Oregon programs working together to detect the West Nile virus. In the event that West Nile virus is found among mosquito, horse, bird, or human populations in Oregon, the county is prepared to respond.

### **What are adulticides?**

Adulticides are a way to control adult mosquitoes and the illnesses they can transmit. For adulticides to be effective, they are administered during the times when mosquitoes are most active; this is usually in the late afternoon. Adulticides are applied by trained and licensed staff.

### **How are adulticides applied?**

MCVNC may apply adulticides through ultra-low volume (ULV) sprays by ground. ULV sprays work by allowing small droplets of adulticide to stay in the air; mosquitoes that come in contact with the droplets will die.

### **When does Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control plan to use adulticides?**

Mosquito adulticides may be used in areas where surveillance of mosquito populations shows an increased risk of mosquito-borne disease in humans. Because the applications are in small quantities of active ingredients in relation to the size of the area (usually less than 1 ounce per acre) this minimizes the exposure and risk to people and the environment. The risks to these treatments occur during the application and for an hour or so afterwards. The active ingredients of the adulticide products break down quickly and do not leave a toxic residue. Precautions should still be taken when your neighborhood is being sprayed.

### **What kinds of precautions should I take when I know adulticides are being applied?**

- You should remain inside during the spraying.
- Children should stay inside during the spraying and for about an hour or so afterwards.
- Pets should be kept indoors to minimize their exposure.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Turn off your air conditioners or set it to circulate indoor air.
- Bring in toys and laundry before spraying or wash them afterwards.
- Cover ornamental fish ponds during the application.
- Because the adulticides break down quickly in water and sunlight there are no special precautions or waiting periods that we recommend for outdoor swimming pools. Please remember that if a pool is not being used it should be covered or drained. Standing water, even in small quantities, is a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes.

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**Can I choose to not have my house sprayed if the MCVNC sprays adulticides?**

It may be possible for us to limit or reduce applying insecticides (mosquito adulticides) on your property. If you would like to be placed on our "Pesticide Sensitivity List" please fill out the online submission form at <http://www.mchealth.org/vector/nospray.cfm> or call us at 503-988-3464. In the case of public health emergency, properties on the list may require treatment to control adult mosquitoes and property owners will be given ample notification to make alternate plans if necessary.

**Where can I go for more information?**

If you are concerned about the spraying of adulticides please contact our office at 503-988-3664 or visit our website at [www.mchealth.org/wnv/](http://www.mchealth.org/wnv/)

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