

Disease fear prompts additional mosquito spraying

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Prince George's County, MD -- Concern over the possibility of mosquitoes spreading disease has prompted an unplanned mosquito control spraying in Prince George's County this coming weekend.

Truck-based spraying to control adult mosquitoes is planned for the evening of Sunday, September 22, within a one-mile radius of the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Livingston Road. This unscheduled spraying will include parts of Forest Heights and Glassmanor.

Spraying will occur after 7:30 p.m. In the event of rain, spraying will be re-scheduled for the next available evening. Any existing spray exemptions in the area will be temporarily suspended.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture says the spray is a permethrin-based solution that the EPA has approved for use in public health mosquito control programs without posing unreasonable risks to human health. Though they do suggest avoiding outdoor activities during spraying.

While not all mosquitoes carry diseases, the Maryland Department of Agriculture suggests that residents take precautions to minimize their exposure to mosquito bites. These measures include:

- Wear long, loose fitting, light colored clothing
- Wear insect repellents according to product labels
- Avoid mosquito infested areas during prime periods of activity (between dusk and dawn)
- Install, inspect, and repair window and door screens in homes and stables
- Regularly clean bird baths and bowls for pet food and water
- Remove or empty all water-holding containers