Mosquito-borne Illness

There are several illnesses that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The most common in our area is West Nile Virus. In 2016, Zika Virus showed up locally in people who returned from parts of the world where the virus is common. You can reduce your risk of being infected with mosquito-borne illness by using insect repellent and wearing protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.

West Nile Virus (WNV)

Most people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with West Nile virus will not develop any type of illness (an asymptomatic infection). However, WNV can also lead to West Nile Fever or Severe West Nile Disease. The incubation period is usually 2 to 15 days.

West Nile Symptoms:
- Fever
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Body aches

Zika Virus

Zika virus can be transmitted from mosquitoes to humans, from a pregnant woman to her unborn baby, and from an infected man to his sex partners. Most people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with Zika virus will not develop any type of illness (asymptomatic). However, about 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus become ill (i.e., develop Zika). The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) for Zika virus disease is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week.

Zika Virus Symptoms:
- Fever
- Rash
- Joint Pain
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
**Applying Larvicide**

Larvicides can be applied to standing water as a liquid, granules, or briquets. The briquets, or dunks, are the most common form used.

**Mosquito dunks:**
- Are environmentally safe and can be applied by hand, by dropping them in standing water
- Slowly release a long-term larvicide at the water's surface
- Can kill mosquito larvae for 30 days or longer
- Are especially effective for areas where it is difficult to drain standing water, such as puddles, ditches, ponds, or tree stumps
- Should not be applied to drinking water reservoirs or drinking water receptacles
- Can be purchased at most gardening, hardware, or home improvement stores

Please follow the directions on the package.