



TOWN OF LINCOLN
BOARD OF HEALTH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
16 LINCOLN RD LINCOLN, MA 01773
WWW.LINCOLNTOWN.ORG



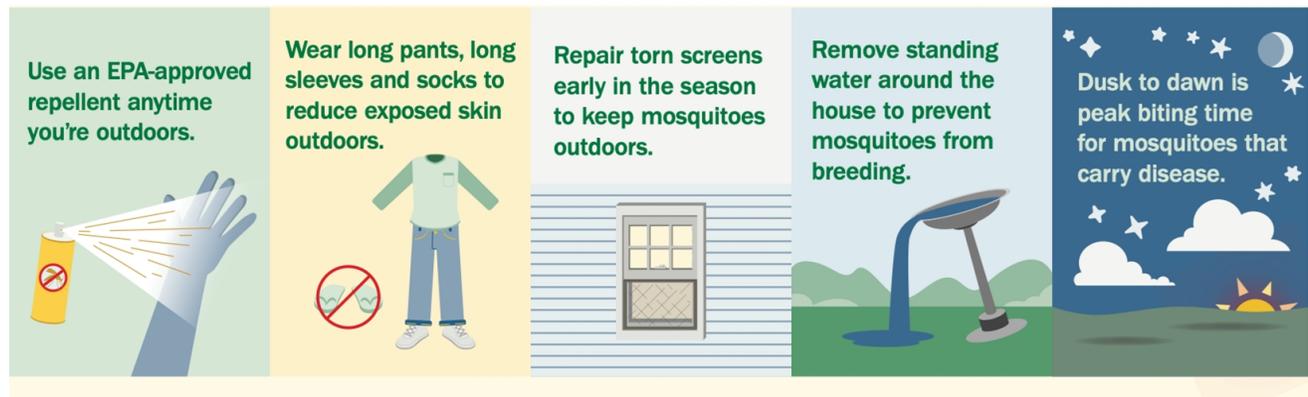
LINCOLN LAND
CONSERVATION TRUST
P.O. BOX 10
LINCOLN, MA 01773
WWW.LINCOLNCONSERVATION.ORG/

June 2022

Dear Lincoln Neighbor,

Mosquito season is upon us! As such, the Lincoln Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, the Agricultural Commission, and the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust are reaching out to you with the enclosed brochure that describes ways for you to deter mosquitoes and prevent their bites while enjoying the outdoors. These preferred prevention measures do not include the spraying of chemicals designed to kill mosquitoes or their larvae. Instead, the emphasis is on preventing bites through personal protection and repelling the mosquitoes. This approach has the additional benefit of preventing unintended harmful consequences of chemical spraying to humans, pets, livestock, crops, insects, birds, and the entire food chain.ⁱ

There are many companies who sell mosquito and tick prevention services to residents, most of which include chemical management techniques. These companies often imply that the insecticides they spray on yards are safe for everything except mosquitoes and/or ticks. However, some of these companies are also very reluctant to reveal what chemicals they use.ⁱⁱ Instead of hiring a company to spray chemicals on and around your yard, we hope you will focus on the prevention measures outlined in the enclosed brochure. Furthermore, no spraying may be performed within 100 feet of a wetland or 200 feet of a year-round flowing stream without it first being reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.



Lincoln is part of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District (EMMCD) and the Town pays for annual mosquito surveys and surveillance. This involves select trapping and testing of mosquitoes in Lincoln. The results of the testing are shared with the Lincoln Board of Health and if infected mosquitoes are discovered in Lincoln, residents will be notified. Please note that the Town does not fund annual spraying of mosquito larvae or adults and therefore, EMMCD does not conduct any chemical management in Lincoln.ⁱⁱⁱ

Mosquitoes are a deterrable pest. It is important we all do our part to prevent mosquito bites because a very small number of mosquitoes may be infected with diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Fortunately, the risk of such diseases is extremely low in Lincoln. Historical surveillance data available at the Department of Public Health revealed that there have been ZERO instances of mosquitoes with EEE detected in Lincoln in over 60 years.

We hope you find the enclosed brochure helpful, and that it provides you with the tools you need to confidently enjoy the outdoors without worrying about mosquitoes and their bites. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to seeing you on Lincoln's trails!

Sincerely,

The Lincoln Board of Health

The Lincoln Conservation Commission

The Lincoln Agricultural Commission

The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust

i Chemicals used to kill mosquitoes are toxic to invertebrate and fish populations. See "Mosquito Control and Spraying" at www.mass.gov/service-details/mosquito-control-and-spraying.

ii To learn what active ingredients there are in many of the chemicals that mosquito companies use, see: <https://colinpurrington.com/2018/09/buzz-on-mosquito-sprays/>.

iii In 2019, the Board of Health authorized a one-time emergency spraying of the area around the Lincoln schools when parents expressed concerns after a child from Sudbury was diagnosed with EEE.

PROTECT YOURSELF from MOSQUITO BITES