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**LOCAL NEWS**

DR. ROB

**Keeping mosquito population under control**

*There are precautions you can take to reduce your chances of being the next fast food restaurant for your local mosquito population.*

I know many of you are very familiar with the signs and symptoms of West Nile Virus.

However, despite this knowledge, some very smart people are not taking the proper precautions.

Even though it is estimated that less than one percent of mosquito's may carry this virus, it is still very important to do your part to keep the mosquito population from exploding and overpopulating Bucks County.



Dr. Rob

Mosquitoes are most active in our area of the country between April and October. While bug zappers, incense and ultrasonic devices have NOT been shown to be effective against mosquitoes, there are other precautions you can take to reduce your chances of being the next fast food restaurant for your local mosquito population.

According to the New York City Department of Health:

- If outside during evening, nighttime and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- Also, if outside during these times, consider the use of insect repellents, such as those "containing 10% or less of DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children and no more than 30% DEET for adults." DEET is a chemical and should not be used on infants or pregnant women, and must be used with caution in children. It is important to follow the manufacturers instructions, and not to exceed the dosing.
- There are also other alternatives that do not contain DEET, including the brand called Bite Blocker. This is a plant based insect repellent which combines soybean, coconut and geranium oil, and seems to be as effective against mosquitoes as a chemical repellent containing 6.65% DEET.

It is also important to reduce the local population of mosquitoes by eliminating



- it is also important to reduce the local population of mosquitoes by eliminating sources of standing water (where mosquitoes lay their eggs) such as clogged gutters, old tires left outside, bird baths (change the water frequently), tree stump holes and planters. If you have a pool or outdoor sauna, please chlorinate and keep them clean.

Tell a friend about this story!

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SEND!

**Dr. Rob Danoff appears Tuesdays. You can reach him at Frankford Hospital Bucks County, 380 N. Oxford Valley Road, Falls, where he is director of Family Practice Residency. E-mail: [rdanoff@fhcs.org](mailto:rdanoff@fhcs.org).**

**July 16, 2002**

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