

UNDERSTAND & PROTECT AGAINST INFECTIOUS VECTOR- BORNE DISEASE



SMALL BUGS

BIG PROBLEMS



Insects, ticks and other "bugs" are small creatures that can cause big problems. There are some 10 quintillion (10,000,000,000,000,000,000) insects on Earth. **Some carry germs that are harmful and can cause severe illness, even death.**



The diseases that can come from a mosquito or tick bite include West Nile, Zika, Dengue, Malaria, Chikungunya [\chik-en-gun-ye], Rocky Mountain Fever, Lyme disease and many others. **The "bug" is called the vector, while the illness is called a vector-borne disease.**



The germs, called pathogens, are most often transferred during a bite. The germs can be a virus, bacteria or parasite that enters the blood stream of the person or animal being bitten.



Vector-borne diseases are part of a larger group of illnesses, called zoonotic diseases, which means that the germs 'jump' from one species of animal to another (e.g., when a mosquito infects a human or a tick infects a horse).



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **80% of the world's population is at risk of getting a vector-borne disease.**



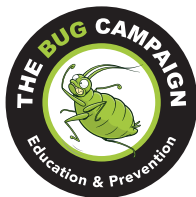
The number of these infections is growing rapidly, primarily because of several environmental factors including climate change, deforestation and human over-development.



The Bug Campaign exists to help underserved families understand and avoid the devastating effects of vector-borne illnesses and to provide insights for people who may have been infected.



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PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY



There are no vaccines for most of these illnesses; the best way not to get sick is to not get bitten.



Use EPA*-approved repellents for skin and clothing. Don't use repellents under clothes. Consider using insecticides on gear and equipment. If you don't have any repellent, sit in front of a fan – mosquitoes are weak flyers.



Adults should use their hands to apply repellent to a child. Avoid the eyes, mouth and nose, and be sure to pay attention to product age restrictions.



Remove standing water in birdbaths, old tires, containers, toys, plant containers, clogged roof gutters, and containers. Fill in stagnant ditches. A mosquito can lay eggs in just a small drop of water.



Outdoor mosquito control devices can help protect backyards and open spaces. These are often better and safer than chemical sprays. Netting is an option over a space, tent, baby carriage or stroller.



Seal broken windows and fill in cracks that would allow bugs into the home. Doors and windows should have fine mesh screen installed.



ALWAYS read the instructions of the repellents and insecticides that you use. Some have harmful chemicals.



Don't take a chance! The bug that bites you may be carrying a dangerous germ that can infect you. Protect yourself.

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