

# Protecting Kids From Mosquito Meanies

(NAPSA)—Fun in the sun can be one of the most enjoyable family activities. Too often this outdoor fun is spoiled by that familiar picnic-crasher...the **Mosquito!** More than just a nuisance, mosquitoes can carry dangerous diseases like encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Dengue Fever.

According to University of Florida Professor of Entomology Dr. Peter V. Perkins, “The **West Nile Virus**, a form of encephalitis carried by the *Culex* species of mosquito that is common to most areas of the U.S., is spreading across the country at an alarming rate.” Parents everywhere are looking for ways to protect their children from the dangers of insect-borne diseases. Unfortunately, children are at a higher risk of infection due to their weaker immune systems. Luckily, there are some simple steps you can take to help reduce your child’s risk of exposure to these dangerous diseases.

- Don’t use scented soaps, perfumes or hair sprays on your children, and avoid dressing them in dark-colored clothing, all of which can attract mosquitoes and increase the risk of infection.

- Use an insect repellent containing **DEET** on exposed skin and clothing. “All Family” formulated repellents are available in pump sprays, aerosols, and a convenient **Cutter Towelette**. This unique towelette form makes it even safer and easier to protect your children from mosquitoes, reducing the worry of spraying repellent in the mouth or eyes. Insect repellents used on children should contain no more than ten percent DEET according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Keep your lawn and brush trimmed and replace birdbath and wading pool water at least once a week to eliminate mosquito habitat.

- Level low spots in your yard to promote water runoff, eliminat-



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ing mosquito habitat.

- Keep your gutters clear and free flowing.

- Remove any unused flowerpots, tires or any other object that might hold standing water. Mosquitoes have been known to live in any standing water available, even bottle caps, old cans and plastic bags that collect water.

- Use a **permethrin**-based mosquito spray on your lawn, trees, shrubs, and flowers, such as Cutter Bug Free Backyard.

- To get an accurate weekly forecast of mosquito activity in your area before venturing outdoors, you can visit **Skeeterbites.com**.

- Whenever using an insect repellent or insecticide, always read and follow the manufacturer’s directions for use, as printed on the product.

Keep these tips in mind when venturing outdoors with your children this summer, and you can help keep the whole family happy and healthy.