

Mosquito issues after the Townsville floods, February 2019

Mosquito numbers may increase after floods, storms and cyclones as flood waters recede and pools of water remain. These mosquitoes are mainly a nuisance but may pick up and carry viruses such as Ross River or Barmah Forest. Townsville City Council has a regular program of preventative mosquito-control work in the local salt marsh breeding sites for bush mosquitos.

The dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, lives and breeds in and around people's homes. During flood events these breeding sites are washed away and the population often takes weeks to re-establish. Townsville has *Wolbachia*-carrying dengue resistant *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, further reducing the risk of dengue outbreaks within the community.

Prevention, protecting you and your family

To reduce mosquito bites, wear insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin and reapply regularly. Wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing and shoes. Fix mosquito screens, use flying insect spray to kill any mosquitoes in rooms, along with plug-in mozzie zappers, and use mosquito coils outdoors.

Reduce the number of potential mosquito breeding sites around your home:

- Clean up around your property by tipping out or throwing away any containers such as pot plant bases, tin cans, plastic containers, buckets, tarps, rubbish and tyres
- Unblock roof gutters and drains

Symptoms

Common symptoms for mosquito-borne diseases are:

- Headache
- Fever
- Joint or muscle pain
- Skin rash

See your doctor if you become unwell with these symptoms.

Further Information:

See your doctor or health clinic

For health information [Call 13 HEALTH \(13 43 25 84\)](tel:13432584) for qualified health advice anytime

Or visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/recovery-after-disaster/cleaning-up>