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 mosquitoes.

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) for qualified health advice anytime

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