

Pralene

From: Sagren Moodley <Sagren.Moodley@durban.gov.za>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:44 AM

To: Singh Michael (DBN) <SinghM@dws.gov.za>; Tashya Giyapersad <tashya@tgiyapersad.co.za>

Cc: ramsundarravi@gmail.com; Eileen Hulin <eileen@hulinco.co.za>; Sandra Singh <sandra.singh@nmidsm.co.za>; Bala Moodley <Bala.Moodley@durban.gov.za>; Vusi Mbuthu <Vusi.Mbuthu@durban.gov.za>; Bala Moodley <Bala.Moodley@durban.gov.za>; Ntsaphokazi Ncarashe <NTSAPHOKAZI.NCARASHE@durban.gov.za>; Sagren Moodley <Sagren.Moodley@durban.gov.za>

Subject: RE: LA MERCY - SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOS

Good Morning,

Thank you for raising your concerns relating to mosquito infestation. In response I will like to highlight the following:

1. DDT is only used to control mosquitoes in known Malaria areas. The application of DDT is for indoor residual spraying targeting adult mosquitoes. Whilst DDT remains the most effective insecticide for Malaria control the use of it is highly regulated both internationally and within South Africa. DDT is not used in Ethekewini as Durban is not a known Malaria area, hence no authority is granted for its use.
2. Ethekewini Health Dept responds to mosquitoes complaints and surveys are undertaken to identify breeding spots. If a breeding source is found the water body is treated (in places where the Municipality has an obligation) with an approved insecticide (non DDT) targeting mosquito larvae in the water body. This however is a temporary measure as the active ingredient in the insecticide used is viable only for 14days.
3. With the current water shortages especially in areas North of Durban residents are resorting to rain water harvesting. It is common for residents to store water in open containers and buckets. This creates ideal medium for mosquitoes to breed. The recent rains also contribute to mosquitoes. It is also common that some residents are neglecting their swimming pools resulting in mosquito breeding.
4. Previous complaints of mosquitoes in La Mercy was related to the river. The river estuary was blocked meaning that water was not flowing out to sea and water stagnating along the river. Accordingly to National Dept of Environmental Affairs standards and legislation artificial breaching of the estuary is not allowed. Hence we are reliant on weather events such as heavy down pours and storms to naturally breach the estuary.
5. Teams will be deployed this week to survey along LaMercy river to identify breeding spots. Whilst this is being undertaken I agree with the suggestion that a lot can be done around homes to get rid of standing water in containers, etc to reduce the breeding spaces.

Kindly note that the process to lodge complaints is to call **031 3113555**. The complaint will be logged and captured and allocated to an Environmental Health Practitioner to conduct detail investigation and home visits. Whilst we acknowledge this complaint in the interest of service delivery forwarding direct emails is not part of the complaints management system.

Regards Sagren Moodley
Vector Control Section
Ethekewini Health Dept

From: Singh Michael (DBN) <SinghM@dws.gov.za>

Sent: Thursday, 14 December 2023 7:42 AM

To: Tashya Giyapersad <tashya@tgiyapersad.co.za>; Sagren Moodley <Sagren.Moodley@durban.gov.za>

Cc: ramsundarravi@gmail.com; Eileen Hulin <eileen@hulinco.co.za>; Sandra Singh <sandra.singh@nmidsm.co.za>
Subject: RE: LA MERCY - SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOS

You don't often get email from singhm@dws.gov.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Tashya,

Thank you for this follow up.

I need to raise a matter of concern in this regard.

While I fully appreciate the urgent need to control the mosquitoes, I am also aware of the spraying to control mosquitoes in malaria vulnerable areas especially in northern KZN in the districts of both Zululand and Umkhanyakude.

I have been part of Steering Committees that are looking at water resources planning and development. I was alarmed to hear from colleagues in SAEON and there also research papers that confirm the presence of DDT throughout the ecosystem. It is the official policy of the SA Health department to use DDT. I believe (and we must confirm) that whichever authority that will undertake this work will be using DDT.

DDT is banned internationally and so is its manufacturing. South Africa is one of the very few countries that uses DDT, it imports from stockpiles of some countries, that by the way soon have to get rid of these stockpile.

DDT has destroyed ecosystems and has devastating impacts on both humans and environment – cause of many serious illnesses and diseases. It enters into all levels of the ecosystem – some of the research indicates that it is found in shell fish in the vicinity of these rivers. We have people that grow food, harvest “herbs” in our area, people fish regularly as well.

My personal suggestion is we please confirm what spray (does it contain DDT or not) before we go ahead. The USA banned DDT in the 1970s.

I'm not sure but we can also do a lot around our homes to get rid of standing water in containers, etc to reduce the breeding spaces and hopefully control mosquitoes. Of course, our very plentiful rain is a major factors in creating accumulations of fresh water as well.

Please keep me posted.

Kind regards and thanks,

Michael Singh

From: Tashya Giyapersad <tashya@tgiyapersad.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 13 December 2023 22:24

To: Sagren.Moodley@durban.gov.za

Cc: ramsundarravi@gmail.com; Eileen Hulin <eileen@hulinco.co.za>; Sandra Singh <sandra.singh@nmidsm.co.za>; Singh Michael (DBN) <SinghM@dws.gov.za>

Subject: RE: LA MERCY - SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOS

Good day

Our ref: L92.tg

Please can you revert in regard to when the la mercy water /coastal areas can be sprayed.

We have an influx of Mozzies and residents cannot go outside their homes towards the late afternoon.

I am writing in my capacity as the Vice- Chair of the La Mercy Civic and Ratepayers Association.

Yours faithfully

Tashya Giyapersad

BA(UND) LLB(UKZN) LLM(UKZN) NQF BUS RES(UNISA) AA Arb

*Our offices will be closing on the 22nd December 2023 and opening on the 8th January 2024 for the
Festive Season.*

Seasons Greetings



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