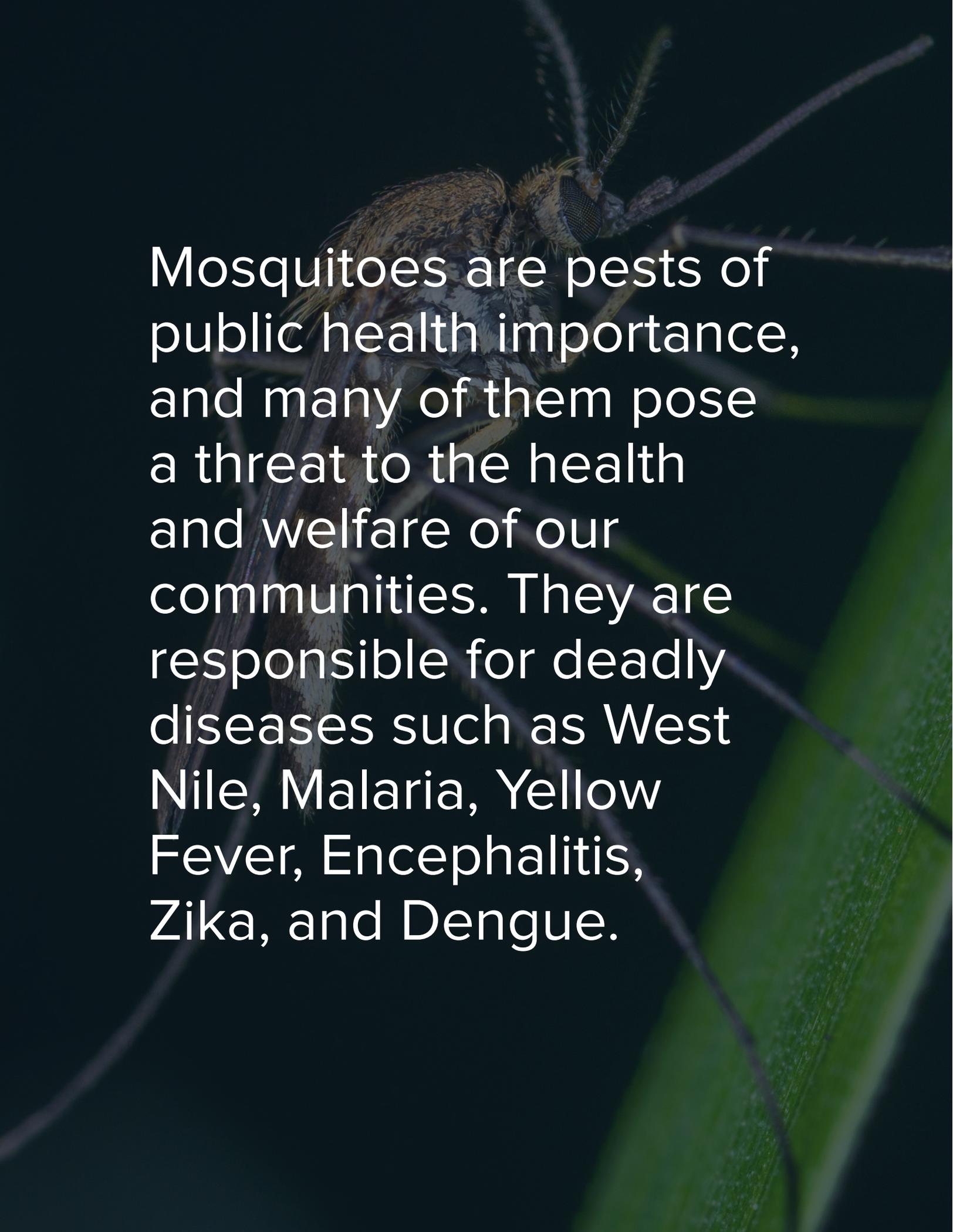




How to Educate Citizens
and Spread Awareness on
Preventing Mosquito-borne
Diseases in Your Community



Mosquitoes are pests of public health importance, and many of them pose a threat to the health and welfare of our communities. They are responsible for deadly diseases such as West Nile, Malaria, Yellow Fever, Encephalitis, Zika, and Dengue.



Did you know...

- 1.** Mosquitoes transmit diseases that kill over 1 million people a year, making them the world's deadliest animal.
- 2.** There are several known ingredients approved by EPA and CDC for repelling mosquitoes. It's essential to read the label and follow use guidelines carefully.
- 3.** Certain species of mosquitoes are more active during the day, while others are active only at dawn and dusk.

Which is why it's important to understand the measures citizens can take to help prevent mosquito-borne diseases in our communities.



Understand the measures citizens can take to help prevent mosquito-borne diseases

Identifying Mosquito Habitat and Preventing their Growth

Mosquitoes require standing water to complete their life cycle. Even small volumes are capable of yielding 300 eggs within a female mosquito's six- to eight-week lifespan. Emptying outdoor containers and identifying areas where water can pool is crucial to limiting their populations.

Make sure flower pots are able to drain properly, and watering cans are completely empty after use. Fill in potholes and ditches to prevent puddles from forming during rainstorms. Clean up equipment and debris around your property, including bottles and cups, old tires, plastic bags, wheelbarrows, and other items that may collect water.

Personal Protection Against Mosquito Bites

Mosquito management efforts should also include personal protective measures. There are many ways to enjoy the outdoors while protecting yourself from mosquito bites.

Cover your bare skin with loose-fitting, light-colored pants and long sleeves. If temperatures are too warm for long clothing, avoid spending time outside during dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Likewise, consistently apply an EPA-registered repellent and do so according to label directions.

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Spread awareness by educating the general public

Some mosquito species are capable of traveling many miles for a blood meal, so even with local mosquito management efforts in place, you may still notice mosquito populations in your area. Public education is key to ensuring your efforts are reinforced by the surrounding community. Many channels and organizations can be utilized to inform citizens about the dangers of mosquito-borne diseases and provide effective prevention tips. County and municipal websites or social media accounts can be used to quickly disseminate urgent mosquito information to hundreds and thousands of citizens.

When you partner with a professional mosquito management organization, they can provide you with resources to distribute, such as links, images, flyers, etc.—ensuring that community members receive the most accurate and effective information about the mosquito species, diseases, and tools used in your area. Professionals can also assist with educational presentations at city council meetings, schools and libraries, public health expos, and local clubs (such as Lions, Rotary or Scouts).



Secure funding for vector-borne disease prevention and control in your community

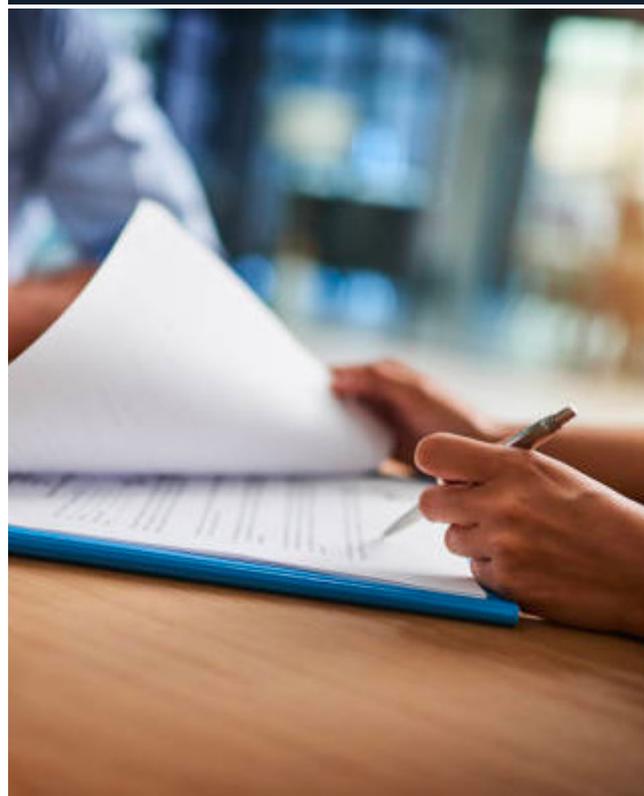
Public education and awareness play a critical role in mosquito management, but ultimately your efforts to reduce mosquito populations and protect public health won't go very far without funding. Federal, state, and other government agencies throughout the U.S. award municipal or county entities with grants and other funding to assist with the prevention of vector-borne diseases. Finding, applying for, and obtaining funding for vector prevention and control, can be a difficult and complicated process. And, oftentimes, a detailed yet concise description of the vector prevention or control program that will be implemented is required when funds are requested.

Public Health Agencies and Public Health Officials in your state can be great resources for discovering vector control grants. Once you've located an opportunity to secure funding, an experienced mosquito management organization can assist in writing grants or other requests that will have a high level of success for securing the funds necessary to help protect your community.

Furthermore, they can help you develop a mosquito management program that focuses on the local population of mosquitoes and the unique needs of your community.



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Implement an Integrated Mosquito Management Program

As mosquito awareness and prevention efforts grow, so does the impact of ongoing management initiatives. For the most comprehensive and long-lasting results, these efforts must be supported by an Integrated Mosquito Management Program (IMM).

IMM programs are most successful when combined with public education and partnerships with city, county, and state governments, but it goes far beyond that. An effective vector management program includes strategic surveillance and monitoring, disease testing, and species control using professional equipment, aerial fleets, and advanced technologies like GIS mapping and drones.

VDCI is here to help with any need to run an effective vector management program. Our approach aligns with the recommendations set forth by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



We're committed to protecting public health
through excellence in vector control.



Visit us online at vdc.net or call **800.413.4445** to
speak with one of our professionals.

