



### **Media Contact**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS MOSQUITO CONTROL RESOURCES AND EDUCATION TO AID IN DISEASE PREVENTION**

**Hillsborough, NC (June 14, 2016)** – Summer is in full swing and the mosquitos are out in force. The Orange County Health Department is proactively working to provide residents with the information and resources necessary to help protect them from the variety of diseases spread through the bites of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can carry a variety of diseases including: Zika, West Nile Virus, Chikungunya, Dengue, and Eastern Equine and Lacrosse Encephalitis.

Orange County residents can stop by one of the health department's [three locations](#) to pick up mosquito dunks to treat areas of standing water. The dunks are being given away on a first come, first serve basis with a limit of two packs to residents who can't afford to purchase them. The mosquito dunks are also available for purchase at most home improvement and hardware stores. Mosquito dunks are an effective form of mosquito control because they kill larvae before they can mature into biting adults. Dunks contain naturally occurring [bacteria](#) that are toxic to mosquito larvae but are not harmful to other wildlife or humans. They can treat areas up to 100 square feet and can be broken into pieces to effectively treat smaller areas as well.

Another way the Orange County Health Department is working to assist residents in reducing the number of mosquitos is with a [short video](#) highlighting ways to eliminate breeding areas through tip and toss methods and property awareness and maintenance, and using effective insect repellents to repel biting insects.

The health department is also working with the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation to place boxes at the entrance of seven county parks to make insect repellent available to park visitors. The "Spray before you Play" stations will include cans

of spray and a sign with instructions in English and Spanish on to how to apply the spray. The boxes are scheduled to be placed in mid-July and stay up through the end of September.

“We know bugs are going to bite but we are doing what we can to empower our residents to help minimize the number of breeding grounds in the county, prevent bites through effective use of repellents, and stay vigilant while enjoying the wonderful outdoor spaces in our county.” said Environmental Health Director Alan Clapp.

Additional tips to reduce exposure to mosquito bites and illness:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- Wear insect repellent registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. When used as directed, EPA-registered repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breast-feeding women.
- Keep playground equipment and toys away from yard edges and out from under trees.
- Use air conditioning or make sure windows and door screens are in place and without holes.

Learn more on the Orange County Health Department’s [Fight the Bite](http://bit.ly/1rWN14a) webpage:  
<http://bit.ly/1rWN14a>

**Mosquito Dunk Initiative**

It is recommended that you call the health department at (919) 245-2400 before visiting to ensure availability.

Orange County Health Department mosquito dunks pick-up locations:

<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>Medical Clinic Front Desk</b> 300 West Tryon Street Hillsborough, NC  <b>Environmental Health Front Desk</b> 131 West Margaret Lane Suite 100 Hillsborough, NC
<b>Chapel Hill</b>	<b>Medical Clinic Front Desk</b> 2501 Homestead Road Chapel Hill, NC