



Macon County Public Health

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Press Release

Macon County Public Health Celebrates Public Health Month

April is public health month. Public health, as defined by the American Public Health Association, promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from ever becoming sick or injured. We also promote wellness by promoting healthy behaviors.

In celebration, Macon County Public Health is promoting “Fight the Bite”- a campaign to educate the public on how to limit their contact with disease carrying mosquitos.

Mosquito borne illnesses are most commonly spread between June to September, but residents of Macon County can “Tip and Toss” to eliminate mosquito breeding water around their homes. This should reduce the likelihood of mosquito bites.

Mosquito borne illnesses are common in North Carolina. The most commonly reported mosquito borne illnesses that are present in North Carolina are Lacrosse, West Nile, and Eastern equine encephalitis.

“Mosquitos are common in our area and they carry germs that can cause serious illness,” said Kyle Jennings, Environmental Health Section Administrator. “The best way to prevent these illnesses is to take steps like using an EPA approved bug spray, wear protective clothing when outdoors, and remove standing water from around your home.” You can also use mosquito dunks in standing water to stop mosquito breeding.” For more information, visit <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/vector.html>.

Stop by the Environmental Health office at Macon County Public Health during the month of April –Monday through Friday from 8:00 am- 5:00 pm- to receive free mosquito dunks and “Fight the Bite” educational materials. Macon County Public Health is located at 1830 Lakeside Drive. For more information on “Fight the Bite” campaign call (828) 349- 2490.

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