



## **FAQ 7. What steps can I take to avoid exposure to mosquito control spraying?**

Individuals who would like to avoid exposure to the insecticides applied by the Mosquito Control Section can take some steps to avoid direct exposure to our spray applications, such as temporarily leaving an area about to be sprayed or by remaining indoors with the doors and windows closed and the air conditioner(s) off during and immediately after insecticide spraying. The general times and locations for knowing about the Section's pending spray operations can be determined through various media devices and other means as described in FAQ 6. Please see our website at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito) for spray information.

For individuals with certain concerns, the Section will also consider special requests to establish a “**No-Spray Zone,**” where mosquito control adulticides (insecticides applied to control adult mosquitoes) are not applied to your location. Decisions on granting No-Spray Zone requests are made by the Mosquito Control Section in consideration of a citizen's or resident's **stated purpose** for making such a request; whether such a request can be practicably accommodated by our application equipment and within our application operations; and whether not spraying your location will unreasonably deny your neighbors or your community of their desired mosquito control services.

By our Spray Policy, requests for No-Spray Zones by citizens or residents living within an incorporated municipality (city or town), applicable only for adulticides, **must be made to the Mosquito Control Section by a municipal official** (on their constituent's behalf). As such, a citizen or resident of a municipality wishing to have a No-Spray Zone established around his/her residence or property should first contact an appropriate municipal official and obtain the municipality's support or concurrence. Conversely in unincorporated areas, citizens or residents wishing to request a No-Spray Zone may do so by directly contacting the Mosquito Control Section. In all cases for unincorporated areas, **only the actual property owner** can make the No-Spray Zone request (i.e. not a renter, tenant, vacationer, visitor, etc.).

It is necessary to complete a No-Spray Zone request application each-and-every year that it is desired. This is because a property's ownership might change from year-to-year or the desire or necessity for having a No-Spray Zone might also change from year-to-year, and as such **there will be no automatic carryover of a previous year's request**

**for a No-Spray Zone.** It is the responsibility of the municipality or individual desiring a No-Spray Zone to provide such notice to the Mosquito Control Section in timely manner on an annual basis. The request should be made by March 1 of each year a No-Spray Zone consideration is desired.

Based upon the information received, the Mosquito Control Section will then approve or disapprove the No-Spray Zone within a few weeks of receiving the completed application form. In almost all cases, particularly when **a medical case of hyper- or chemo-sensitivity** is involved, the Section will try its utmost to accommodate the No-Spray Zone request, weighing the good that granting such a request will do for the individual making the request, versus what might be lost in the way of quality-of-life or public health threats to others nearby (in our not being able to treat adjacent or nearby properties). This is by no means always an easy decision to make. And finally, in event of a **declared human health emergency** caused by outbreak of mosquito-borne disease, the Section reserves **the right to cancel any No-Spray Zone status** that it might have granted, and to proceed with undertaking whatever spraying might be necessary to protect the general public's health during a disease outbreak. However, the Section will attempt to provide advance notice of such cancellation to those people who might now have their No-Spray Zone status cancelled or temporarily lifted.

Additional information on how to request a No-Spray Zone can be obtained by contacting the **Mosquito Control Section in New Castle County and northern Kent County** by calling **302-836-2555**, and in **southern Kent County and Sussex County** by calling **302-422-1512**. An electronic application form for requesting a No-Spray Zone is also available on the Section's website at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/mosquito).