

## Guidelines on Mosquito Prevention for Workers in Construction Sites

**Mosquito bites not only cause itching or swelling but also transmit diseases. *Aedes albopictus* can transmit dengue fever and Zika virus infection. It breeds in small amount of stagnant water.**

There is no effective vaccine for the prevention of dengue fever or Zika virus infection at present. The key to prevent transmission of dengue or Zika virus is to eliminate the breeding places of mosquito and protect yourself from mosquito bite.

### **To eliminate the breeding places of mosquito, one should:**

1. Ensure trenches, lift wells, waste water treatment plants, water barriers, storage tanks, canvas sheets, abandoned tyres, building equipment, machinery parts, and other common water-holding black spots are not accumulating water.
2. Report to the management for its immediate follow-up action(s), e.g. applying larvicides, etc., if the accumulated water cannot be accessed or eliminated.
3. Cover all containers to prevent water accumulation for mosquito breeding.
4. Dispose of refuse, like empty lunch boxes and cans, in covered rubbish bins.
5. Store building materials and any receptacles that can hold water under shelter.
6. Do not tamper with any mosquito preventive measures, e.g. not to remove wrapping at the ends of bamboo scaffoldings, etc.
7. Dispose of demolished articles at least once a week.
8. Drain away water accumulated in pits, trenches, drains, vehicle wash bay, etc. at least once a week.

### **To prevent mosquito bite, one should :**

1. Wear light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers.
2. Tuck pants into socks or boot tops.
3. Apply insect repellent\* containing concentration of 20% or more of DEET on clothes or exposed parts of the body according to the product label instructions. Pregnant workers should use concentration of DEET up to 30% only.
4. If sunscreen is also used, always apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.

\* Please refer to the pamphlet "Proper Use of Insect Repellents" published by the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health & the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for more information

### **Further information:**

In case of using insecticides at work, you should have received relevant training and information on precautionary measures, and should follow the safety instructions of your employer.

Should you need further information regarding occupational health measures, please contact the Labour Department :

Telephone: [2852 4041](tel:28524041) or

Email: [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)

For further information on dengue fever or Zika virus infection:

Centre for Health Protection Website: [www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk)

24-hours Health Education Hotline : [2833 0111](tel:28330111)

For further enquiry on mosquito prevention and control in construction sites:

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department website:

[www.fehd.gov.hk](http://www.fehd.gov.hk)

Enquiry Hotline : [2868 0000](tel:28680000)