



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council urges people to keep taking all precautions against mosquitos

Central Darling Shire Council is urging residents across the Shire – particularly in the Menindee community – to keep taking all precautions against mosquito bites.

NSW Health says that the risk of mosquito-borne diseases is increasing in the state due to the warm, wet weather forecast.

Council is seeing indications of concern particularly in Menindee.

Mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases to people through mosquito bites. Mosquito-borne diseases have been identified in NSW including recently Japanese encephalitis a rare but serious disease spread by infected mosquitoes.

Thankfully no Japanese encephalitis virus has been detected in any traps at Menindee. However, precautions should be taken, and people are encouraged to talk to their health professionals about vaccination.

In testing earlier this month, evidence was found of the Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus in mosquito traps at Menindee. This virus is spread by mosquitos from infected animals to humans. In rare instances NSW Health says it causes severe neurological illness with headache, convulsions, and reduced consciousness in some cases.

People should follow Health advice. Precautions people can follow include:

- **Spray up** – wear insect repellent
- **Cover up** – wear long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing
- **Be aware of your environment** – limit time outdoors when mozzies are most active

Follow the below tips to ensure you have the best protection from mozzie bites:

- Use repellent that contains DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Apply repellent evenly to all areas of exposed skin. Don't forget your face!
- Apply repellent AFTER sunscreen
- Reapply repellent regularly
- Apply repellent to young children, don't let them apply it themselves

More information: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/keepmozziesaway>

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