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Summer means more mozzies

Your in-laws might not be the only unexpected guests to your backyard barbecue—summer wet weather means more mozzies!

Recent wet weather has caused an increase in mosquito numbers, so protect yourself against mosquito bites, and check your home for evidence of mosquitoes or mosquito larvae.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s Environmental Health Manager, Mr Peter Dyer said not only were mosquitoes irritating, mozzie bites could also spread disease.

“It is important to cover up and take precautions against mosquito bites, especially when camping, fishing or enjoying other outdoor activities,” Mr Dyer said.

“Different types of disease-carrying mosquitoes can bite at different times of the day, so it’s important to be vigilant at all times,” he said.

Protect yourself:
- Use insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin, particularly during dusk and dawn hours when most mosquitoes are active. Read and follow all directions and precautions on insect repellent product labels, especially for infants
- Wear long, loose clothing to help protect yourself from bites (light coloured clothes are best)
- Consider using plug-in insecticide vaporiser (indoors) or mosquito coils and mosquito netting over beds and when camping
- Install or repair insect screens on all doors and windows, especially in sleeping areas.

“For under the Public Health Act 2005, you could be fined by your local council if you are breeding mosquitoes around your home, so it’s important to regularly check around your yard for evidence of mosquitoes or mosquito larvae,” Mr Dyer said.

Check your home: Residents are also urged to check the following areas around your home weekly for evidence of mosquitoes or larvae and tip out, wipe out, throw out or dry store items that can hold water.

- Tip out, and wipe out any water from things like plastic containers, tarpaulins or buckets.
- Store anything that can hold water undercover or in a dry place, including work equipment, surplus materials or trailers, and keep bins covered.
- Throw out any rubbish lying around like unused or empty containers, tyres, additional materials and keep worksites tidy.

For more information visit www.health.qld.gov.au/mozziediseases

ENDS

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