

Safety Precaution for Zika Virus Infection

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Zika virus infection is mainly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. To prevent Zika virus infection, persons responsible for construction sites and construction site workers should take the following anti-mosquito measures:

Persons responsible for construction sites should:

- Assign staff for the control and prevention of mosquitoes on site.
- Tidy up the construction site regularly, at least once a week and check for any accumulations of water.
- Remove all water collections and eliminate the source(s).
- Cover all containers that hold water to prevent mosquitoes from accessing the water.
- Fill up or wrap up the vertical poles of the bamboo to prevent accumulations of water.
- Dispose of objects that can contain water; such as empty lunch boxes, cans, disused articles and tyres; into covered container(s) and remove them from site regularly (at least once a week).
- Carry out larviciding at mosquito breeding sources or potential breeding grounds that are inaccessible or could not be eliminated.
- Install mosquito screens on windows and doors.
- Provide construction site workers with appropriate *DEET-containing insect repellent, especially when working in scrubby areas.
- Appoint professional pest control contractors to carry out mosquito control measures, such as fogging, whenever necessary.
- Regularly arrange toolbox training for construction site workers on the prevention of mosquitoes.
- Contact the district pest control offices or Pest Control Advisory Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on mosquito control or prevention on technical issues.

Construction workers should:

- Wear light-coloured and long-sleeved clothes and trousers.
- Apply *DEET-containing insect repellent on the clothes or skin according to label instructions.
- Avoid using fragrant cosmetics or skin care products during outdoor activities.
- Tidy up the construction site and check for any accumulations of water.
- · Remove all water collections and eliminate the sources.



Disclaimer

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the CIC nevertheless would encourage readers to seek appropriate independent advice from their professional advisers where possible and readers should not treat or rely on this publication as a substitute for such professional advice for taking any relevant actions.

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- Change at least every week the water in flower vases and saucers of potted plants to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. The use of saucers should be avoided whenever possible.
- Cover all containers that hold water to prevent mosquito from accessing the water.
- Properly dispose of the articles that are able to contain water such as empty lunch boxes, cans and tyres.
- Avoid keeping used tyres on the site, or otherwise make large holes thereto to prevent water trapping if used tyres are adopted for particular purposes.

Staff working in sites on hills or slopes with scrub:

- Should wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothes and long trousers.
- Should apply mosquito repellent (with *DEET as the active ingredient) on the clothes or skin according to the label instructions.
- Should kill and repel adult mosquitoes resting on the vegetation in the locale where work to be carried out by using "fumigators":
 - (i) Appoint professional pest control contractors to carry out "fumigation".
 - (ii) Assess the occupational safety and health risks arising from "fumigation" and implement all control measures effectively to minimise the risks.
 - (iii) Carry out the "fumigation" once the staff have reached the locale and before they start performing their work.
 - (iv) Carry out the "fumigation" in and on the periphery of the locale.
 - (v) Select those "fumigators" which only need adding water to the product for releasing the insecticide to kill or repel the mosquitoes
- Should be provided with a water based insecticide spray with knock-down effect for killing adult mosquitoes which may attack them when they are performing their work.
- Must not leave any article which may hold water on the work site.

Relevant Reference:

- For details, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/43086.html)
- 預防蚊蟲工具箱訓練教材 Architectural Services Department

*DEET - apart from DEET, insect repellents with other active ingredients, e.g. IR3535, Icaridin (also known as Picaridin), etc. are also available in the market. When using any insect repellent, contractors and site personnel should follow the label instructions and precautions.



Disclaimer

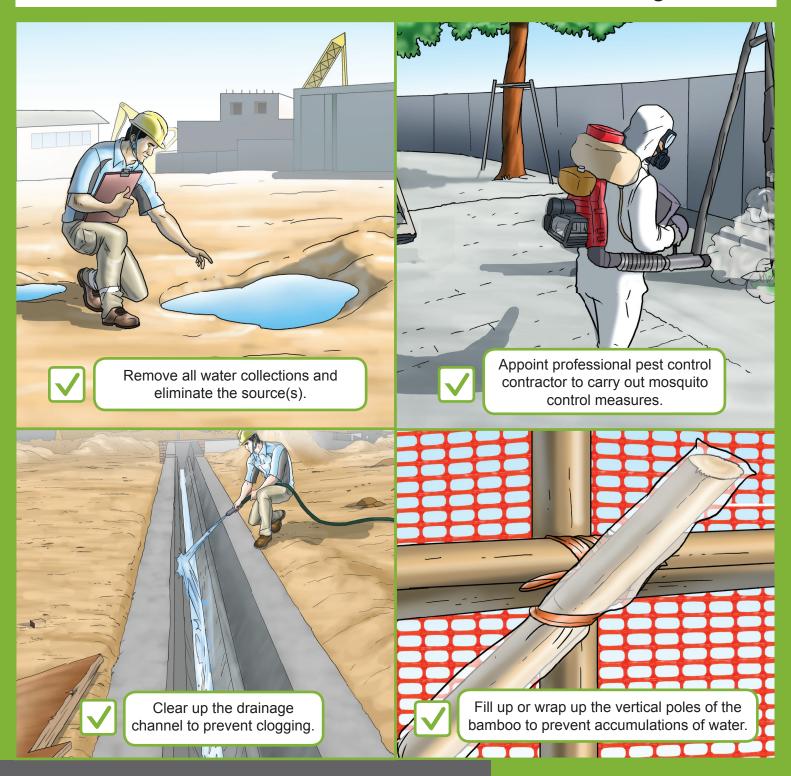
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