

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
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Spring 2024

The [Cuyahoga County Board of Health \(CCBH\)](#) will be collaborating with the [Cleveland Metroparks](#), cities of [North Olmsted](#), [Westlake](#), and the [Lorain County Public Health \(LCPH\)](#) to conduct a spring mosquito control treatment at the Bradley Woods Reservation. This treatment, along with personal precautions by area residents, has been effective in reducing the threat of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV) and LaCrosse Encephalitis (LAC). For the last 15 years, CCBH and LCPH have worked together to conduct a ground treatment every other year during the month of April by utilizing staff with backpack sprayers to apply a granular mosquito larvicide, which prevents mosquito larvae from growing into adult mosquitoes. In 2024, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), or drone, will be utilized for the treatment. The same mosquito control product (Altosid formulation) which has been used in the backpack sprayers and treatment from a helicopter. The mosquito control will be conducted by a contractor with experience with this type of treatment. Weather permitting, a drone will be in operation flying above the treetops conducting the treatment for two to three days.

Please see several frequently asked questions below:

Q. Why is this treatment occurring?

A. LaCrosse encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease that primarily impacts children, had initially occurred with frequency in the 1980s in communities around Bradley Woods. This treatment to reduce the mosquito population helps to disrupt this occurrence.

Q. What mosquito control product will be used?

A. The drone will apply [Altosid SBGII](#), a granular mosquito control product that is specifically designed for use in woodland pools, roadside ditches, ponds, tree holes and other standing water locations, like those in Bradley Woods. It is contained in a small, but heavy silica particle about the size of a grain of sand. It is a growth hormone regulator that prevents the mosquito larvae from becoming biting adult mosquitoes. This product will not affect other aquatic organisms in the water or other wildlife drinking the water (deer, rabbits, squirrels, etc.).

Q. Why is this not done every year?

A. CCBH monitors the mosquito larval activity every year and the results indicate that targeted treatment done every other year is beneficial in lowering the mosquito population the following year. Our current approach successfully balances minimizing the distribution of mosquito control products in the environment with the prevention of potentially deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

Q. How long will the park be closed?

A. We anticipate that Bradley Woods Reservation will be closed for two to three days during treatment. Once the treatment is completed and all equipment is collected, the park will be reopened. You can stay up-to-date on park closures by visiting: <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/alerts-closures>.

Please check www.ccbh.net for more information or contact Joe Lynch, Program Manager at CCBH, by phone at (216)201-2000 ext.1241 or by email at jlynch@ccbh.net.

Roderick Harris, DrPH Health Commissioner

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