

Health Bulletin



Wet Weather Increases Threat Of West Nile Virus

(NAPSA)—There's a new weapon in the war on disease-carrying mosquitoes—and a good thing, too. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 2,400 human cases of West Nile virus were reported nationwide in 2004. This year, officials in some areas of the country are anticipating another active season due, in part, to the wet weather.

Many Americans do not take the necessary precautions even when they are in an at-risk group, such as the elderly. And the risk of developing a severe case of West Nile virus increases with age.

"Those susceptible to contracting a severe case of West Nile often don't take any precautions to guard against it," said Mark Bauman, director of marketing, Spectrum Brands. "Whether hosting a backyard barbecue or taking the dog for a walk around the block, Americans need to protect themselves every time they go outside."

When heading outdoors, the simplest form of protection is to wear insect repellent. In addition to DEET-based insect repellents, the CDC now recommends using Picaridin-based insect repellents for the best protection against mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

Picaridin provides the same long-lasting effective protection as DEET, but is virtually odorless, has a clean feel, and does not need to be washed off after use. Because Picaridin is pleasant to use, it is an appealing alternative for consumers who are dissatisfied with



the way DEET-based repellents smell and feel. Currently, Cutter Advanced is the only insect repellent in the United States featuring Picaridin.

Take the following precautions to avoid bites this summer:

Protect yourself and your family by wearing insect repellent.

- Whether taking a hike through the woods or just firing up the grill, use insect repellent whenever time is spent outdoors. It only takes a few minutes outdoors to be bitten.

Protect outdoor spaces.

- Inspect screens in doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering the home.

- Use permethrin-based foggers and lawn sprays to kill mosquitoes where they hide.

Reduce mosquito breeding areas.

- After a rainstorm, remove standing water that has collected in birdbaths, flowerpots, watering cans, buckets, pool covers, old tires and other places where water collects.

For more information about Picaridin, visit www.picaridin.com or www.cutteradvanced.com. For more information about the West Nile virus, visit www.cdc.gov.