

Is Mosquito Control an Essential Service?



Yes.

Public Health mosquito control programs help mitigate the impact and spread of vector borne diseases and illness. While not explicitly listed public mosquito abatement programs fall within the Department of Homeland Security guidance

for essential businesses and services during a shelter in place government order.

Mosquito abatement programs help prevent the spread of vector borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Dengue, and

Zika. These services are essential to help minimize the stress on our medical systems by suppressing illnesses caused by vector borne viruses.



References:

Department of Homeland Security *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*

Mosquito control services are covered under Public Works section. "Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences."

Mosquitoes are recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a pest of significant public health importance.

The CDC as well as the National Association of City and County Health Organization (NACCHO) deems mosquito control as key to managing vector borne diseases in the United States.

For more information about the role of public health mosquito control in the U.S., see the Association of State and Territorial Health Organization's (ASTHO) *Public Health Confronts the Mosquito* and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) *Capabilities Based Framework for Mosquito Control in the U.S.*

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