

# MOSQUITO CONTROL DURING COVID-19

In nearly all jurisdictions, mosquito control is considered an essential public health service and therefore must maintain operational. But how do you maintain operational continuity under social distancing guidelines or even shelter-in-place orders, and perhaps with reduced staffing, during COVID-19?

Clarke wants to help, by sharing the innovative ways we're seeing our customers react to COVID-19. We're all in this together. Starting now, and for as long as our industry needs it, we'll be sending out brief articles on ideas and tips for maintaining mosquito control services during COVID-19.

Here's the third one:

## How are you providing service continuity?



Over the past weeks, customers from coast-to-coast have shared how they are continuing work as an essential public health service, while protecting the health and safety of their staff members.

Here's a summary of what we've learned:

### Operations

Four trends for mitigating COVID-19 impacts on operations are emerging:

1. **Employees are now home-based.** Technicians are assigned one truck to keep at home, get dispatch orders over the phone or email, drive to the office only to pick up product or for equipment service, and payroll hours are logged via web-based systems.
2. **One person per truck is the new standard.** No morning huddles or team meetings unless they're handled digitally.
3. Response to nuisance calls are **temporarily suspended.**
4. **Backpack sprayers** with EPA-approved disinfectants are being used to provide disinfection services in public spaces.



### Applications

Although most seasonal programs are reporting low populations, a couple more weeks of spring showers and warming temperatures will increase the demand for control applications. **Customers are managing applications by:**

1. Focusing on pre-season suppression with **extended control larvicides.**
2. Considering **drones** for wide area control or reduced staff exposure.
3. Weighing the benefits of **aerial applications** for maximum efficiency.
4. **Protecting PPE** supply by opting for products with less PPE requirements.



### Staffing

Here are a few ways our customers have told us they are managing scheduling for their workforce:

1. **Split shifts** or staggered start times provide more flexibility and promote social distancing.
2. Administrative staff are **rotating days** in the office to manage deliveries and phone lines.
3. **Proceeding cautiously** with ramping up seasonal staff.



## How is your program adjusting operations during COVID-19?

Share your ideas and feedback with your local Clarke representative.