

MOSQUITO CONTROL DURING COVID-19

In nearly all jurisdictions, mosquito control is considered an essential public health service and therefore must maintain operational continuity under extreme social distancing guidelines or even shelter-in-place orders during COVID-19.

This situation is unprecedented, but most every mosquito control entity is facing similar staffing and operational challenges, and wondering how to maintain routine service levels with way less resources than usual.

Clarke wants to help, by connecting programs across the country and 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 first one:

Using Residual Larvicides for Early Season Suppression

Single Brood | One application, 5-7 days of control



5-7 Days

Multiple Brood | One application, 30-180 days of control



30-180 Days



30-45 Days

Control programs often turn to larvicides to get ahead of early season population spikes. [And according to the NOAA, spring will be early this year.](#) making conditions ideal for mosquito breeding.

Routinely hitting known breeding sites with single-brood larvicides is typically the control method of choice for early season population suppression. Temporary water sources are common in the spring, and when you time applications right, single-brood larvicides can do an excellent job at managing synchronous brood hatch offs.

But under COVID-19 operating conditions, programs are short on staff, trying to limiting coworker exposure and generally looking for ways to be more efficient. And so, some customers are considering a switch to residual larvicides this spring.



Here's why residual larvicides might make sense:

- » **Less labor:** Fewer overall applications required.
 - » **Lasts longer:** Residual products will control multiple broods of mosquito larvae, and usually deliver at least 30 days of control.
 - » **More flexible:** Treatment sites don't need to be actively breeding. Residual products will activate when the site gets wet, and in some cases, can even reactivate after a dry down.
 - » **Comparable overall cost:** One residual product treatment is comparable to the product cost of 3 or 4 single brood applications in one month.
- Customers are also telling us that larvicide applications by air may make sense to them this season. Compared to ground treatments, aerial applications would allow them to:
- » **Maintain applications and control** with less labor.
 - » **Quickly cover** a lot of acreage.
 - » **Limit coworker exposure** opportunities.

How is your program approaching early season suppression this year?

Share your ideas and feedback on adopting residual larvicides this spring with your local Clarke representative.