

# Dear Educator

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We would like to educate your students about a major public health issue facing our area: mosquitoes and West Nile virus. West Nile virus is a disease that is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. This virus can potentially be a very serious debilitating disease and in some cases even fatal. Unfortunately, West Nile virus is here to stay and therefore educating our citizens about the importance of doing their part to not create breeding grounds for mosquitoes and just as importantly, the need to protect themselves from mosquito bites, is critical. Thus, as a society we must change our behavior to deal with this issue. Just as we have become accustomed to protecting our skin from the sun by wearing protective clothing and sunscreen, we must learn to practice mosquito prevention. To achieve this behavioral change, we are asking you, as educators, to become involved by educating your students about this very important health concern.

Clackamas County Vector Control District has developed a Mosquito Education Program for grades Kindergarten through Sixth grade, it is designed to educate students about mosquitoes while meeting some of the state Science standards. Students will be provided with lessons about the biology of the mosquito including the anatomy and life cycle, as well as general information about mosquito-borne diseases. Students will be engaged in interactive lessons and service learning activities (see resources for details) thereby increasing their awareness of how they can positively impact their community and environment.

It is our goal to offer the necessary teacher resources and tools to educators so that together we can educate elementary students throughout Clackamas County and promote positive behavioral change while promoting standards-based learning.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Mosquito Education Program curriculum or any of the services the District provides, please contact us Monday through Thursday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at 503-655-8394.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Knight, Executive Director