

## **Aedes Aegypti Mosquitoes and Dengue fever**

Since the discovery of the spread of the dengue fever causing mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*), and the detection of locally transmitted dengue fever cases over the past weeks in the Wilayats of Seeb and Bausher, the Ministry of Health has embarked on a field survey to detect the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes. The *aedes aegypti* mosquito transmits harmful diseases including dengue fever, yellow fever and the Zika virus. There is no direct transmission from person to person. Symptoms of dengue fever may be confused with other illnesses that cause flu-like illness. Other symptoms include high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle pain. There is no specific treatment for dengue fever apart from taking painkillers, plenty of fluids and good rest.

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with Muscat Municipality, announced the continuation of the survey for the presence of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in certain areas in Muscat Governorate. The team is surveying AlSeeb district, Muttrah, Wadi Kabir, Darsait, Al Fahal area, Sultan Qaboos Port, Hamriya, Tiwyan, Ruwi, Bait Al Falaj and Sidab.

In line with the Ministry's campaign to eradicate *Aedes* mosquitoes, a team from the ministry of health visited the company for sampling and conducting surveys to detect the presence of *Aedes* mosquitoes within PDO industrial and camps areas. And in this regard, we are pleased to inform you that the PDO areas were found free from the presence of mosquitoes that transmit dengue fever. The Ministry is still investigating the source of the newly emerging dengue mosquitoes, which could have come from any country. Meanwhile, Muscat Municipality along with the Ministry of Health have implemented many preventive efforts and programmes that deal with controlling the spread of *Aedes* mosquitoes, and started fumigating areas that have reported the presence of the mosquito. In addition, they urged everyone to cooperate with the ministry's personnel, and have asked people to follow the guidelines to avoid dengue.

The MOH has advised the public on ways to avoid mosquito bites, such as wearing long-sleeved clothes, using mosquito-repelling ointments on exposed parts of the body, closing windows with a mesh to protect themselves against mosquitoes, and spraying households with insecticides.

The Ministry also advised the public on ways to eliminate mosquito breeding, such as avoiding water stagnation, discarding water that is stored every five days and cleaning water tanks, disposing of water collected from air conditioners and changing the water of fans and other places where water gets accumulated. People should also change the water in animal and bird drinking containers and clean bowls before refilling them every five days, cover water reservoirs, dispose of used tyres, and ensure the disposal of empty dye cans and damaged utensils. Also, water in swimming pools and fountains must be changed every five days and to keep saucers of potted plants dry. Water tanks must be covered properly, water trapped in old tyres, and paint containers should be drained out.

The Muscat Municipality pest control department focused extensively on spraying with insecticides, as well as the use of silicone oil to curb mosquito breeding.

If you want more information or report a suspected case then please contact the Ministry hotline 24441999

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