

Good Afternoon Robin,

Thank you for reaching out for assistance and to schedule a speaker request!

I was able to speak with our team to get a better idea of what we are seeing in regards to mosquito populations in Madeira Beach. Our first goal is to determine what mosquitoes are the issue to correctly target the breeding habitat or come up with a plan that is the most effective for the species. Additionally, to do any treatment, legally I need to have data to support an elevated presence of problematic mosquitoes. This can be trap data, landing rate counts, and presence of breeding. We reviewed all service requests and treatments conducted since June 1st in your city. The majority of requests and treatments have been due to domestic breeding by *Aedes aegypti* – which is mosquito breeding in man-made and natural containers. *Aedes aegypti* preferentially bites humans and breeds in and around homes and business where they are close to their hosts (us). They do not travel more than a few houses from their breeding location.

Given your request for fogging in the neighborhoods, are you experiencing the majority of issues in an around homes? It would fit with what we are seeing from our data but please let me know if there are other areas of concern. We also have seen a spike in several species of mosquitoes recently due to the onset of rains and higher tides that would be found in a different habitat. I will say that in our coastal communities, we are seeing a trend with a high amount of domestic breeding on private property – both those that are vacant post-storm and those that are currently occupied. Non-functioning pools are interspersed and impacting localized areas in neighborhoods but are not the main driver of the mosquito populations.

One of the challenges of *Aedes aegypti* is that they are daytime biters and fogging does not effectively target them (fogging missions are scheduled for 2AM-6:30AM to match with peak activity times of most other species of concern and avoids people and pollinators as much as feasible). The best treatment is for residents to dump their standing water once a week as these mosquitoes are almost exclusively breeding on private property. We can always help by providing service requests – I will detail that below. We are experiencing a high volume of service requests currently so it may take a few days before we are able to come out but we are here to help!

If there is an issue with vacant properties, our biggest challenge is gaining permission to access. We still need permission to get on private property to inspect and treat. We have some treatment options that do not require getting on private property, such as truck larviciding, but it will only take care of the current population. With abandoned properties, the issue is longer term due to the absence of an individual maintaining it. We experienced this after the last economic down turn with pools on abandoned properties in particular becoming a source for breeding. One of the resources we can proactively provide to residents in a tough situation is mosquito fish for their non-functioning pool. We provide free mosquito fish to any resident and can place mosquito fish in a

pool and retrieve them once the owner/new owner is in a position to repair. It requires the resident to call in a service request and state they'd like fish.

In regards to handling abandoned pools, sharing information and working with your Codes Department would be very beneficial! As we work through requests, if we identify properties with potentially bad pools (or if the property appears to have breeding issues and is vacant), we can share that information with Codes. It typically is not the caller's property with the bad pool, but the caller often points it out as a possible source of the issue. In turn, if your Codes staff is able to gain access to vacant properties or properties with bad pools, they could coordinate with us to go on property together so we can place fish or treat. Again, the biggest hurdle is getting permission to go on property. We have worked with the Health Department and other Codes departments in the same way.

To request service, residents can call (727) 464-7503 to talk directly to our admin to set up a SR, they can email us at mosquitocontrol@pinellas.gov or they can request via See Click Fix. We get a lot of neighbors calling on neighbors, sometimes for personal issue reasons. Due to that, we do need the property owner/occupant to contact to request service because we need them to attest to the location being their property and as the owner/occupant they give permission to access and treat. We always start at the requestor's property for the inspection even if they believe that another property is the issue. Additionally, we ask for a phone number, time of day that mosquitoes are biting and few other questions. A note about See Click Fix – it will geo-locate the request to where the person physically is at when making it. We double check the address provided by the address that is automatically uploaded through geo-location but it is helpful if the request is made at their property. This process is the same for a service request to inspect and treat your home or if you want to request fish. For fish, they just need to state they'd like fish for a pool, ornamental pond etc.

If you would like any materials to help push out information to your residents, we have ready to go social media posts on service requests and how to discourage mosquito breeding. We also have a printable flyer on mosquito fish that you can post and/or provide to Codes for handing out.

Finally, we would love to come to a City Commission meeting to talk about our program. I have cc'ed Caroline Scott on this email, who is our education and outreach specialist. Both Caroline and I would be happy to attend either the July 9th or July 23rd meeting. Between the two of us, there shouldn't be any question we aren't able to answer for you! Please let us know which date works best for you, how much time we will have allotted, and if we are able to utilize power point for presenting.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions! We are here to assist you in the best way we can.

Best,

Alissa Berro

Alissa Berro M.S. PH279554 Director CPM

Section Manager

Mosquito Control and Vegetation Management

Pinellas County Public Works Department

4100 118th Ave N, Clearwater, FL 33762

Office Phone (727) 464-7767

amberro@pinellas.gov



Fight the Bite!

How you can prevent and protect yourself from mosquitoes this summer



Dump, cover, or treat any standing water around your property



Defend by using an insect repellent with a CDC recommended ingredient, such as Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, DEET, Picaridan, or IR3535



Dress in light colored, long sleeved clothing with closed toe shoes



More information can be found on pinellas.gov/mosquito

Fight the Bite!

How residents can discourage mosquito breeding this summer

Dump any standing water around your home.

This can include buckets, toys, clogged gutters, plant pot saucers, or any other item in a yard that can hold water

Cover any areas of standing water, such as rain barrels, with protective screen or tarp

Treat any standing water that is hard to dump, such as the water that collects in plants. You can use *Bti*, a natural soil bacterium, to treat these areas

For large areas of standing water, such as pools in disrepair, you can get free mosquitofish from mosquito control to use as a biological control



Having a mosquito issue on your property?

Contact Pinellas County Mosquito Control for a free service request!*

Call us at 727 - 464 - 7503
or email
mosquitocontrol@pinellas.gov

*Service requests can only be completed on properties where the owner has given Mosquito Control permission to access.

More information can be found on
pinellas.gov/mosquito

Fight the Bite!

What to expect at a service request



Having a mosquito issue on your property?
Contact Pinellas County Mosquito Control for a free service request!

What to expect:

A trained technician will come to your property, with owner permission, and inspect for mosquito breeding

If breeding is found, the technician will either dump the water, treat the water with a granular larvicide, or recommend mosquitofish



More information can be found on pinellas.gov/mosquito