

Guidelines title [In English]

Προγράμματα καταπολέμησης των κουνουπιών, σχέδιο δράσης, σχετική ενημέρωση και προφύλαξη του κοινού για το έτος 2019.

[Mosquito control programme, action plan and relevant public awareness and precaution for 2019]

Year of edition

2019

Summary

Objectives:

The guidelines describe the recommended approach of the Hellenic Republic on the mosquito control programme, action plan and the relevant awareness raising and precautions adopted for 2019. The guidelines were issued on the 08/02/2019, by the Republic's, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Public Health and Quality of Life, Directorate of Public Health, Department of Transitional Diseases.

They cover the issues of (a) Coordination of integrated mosquito control programme in an area; (b) Programmes' design; (c) Insect surveillance; (d) Mosquito control methods; (e) Staff protection and public information; (f) Biocidal residual control; (g) Evaluation and reporting; (h) Other issues.

Within this context, the necessary elements of mosquito control programmes that should be followed by the stakeholders are described, in order to achieve both the prevention of nuisance, but also the protection of public exposure to vector diseases. Particular attention should be paid to mosquito control and public information in areas where West Nile virus (in humans and animals) or malaria cases have been recorded in recent years, in vulnerable areas (areas where *Anopheles* are recorded) as well as in important breeding sites especially near areas hosting refugees or immigrants from countries endemic to these vector diseases.

Targeted mosquito species: Not specified

Methods:

- Surveillance methods:

For the effective implementation of the surveillance programmes, all the available scientific and technical information from past years applications are being utilised considering the results of epidemiological and entomological surveillance as well as emergency conditions. Of great importance is the collection and evaluation of epidemiological and entomological surveillance data concerning mosquito-borne diseases, the vector species recorded in the specific areas and their seasonal population fluctuation.

Surveillance includes:

- Mapping of mosquito breeding sites;
 - Systematic monitoring and recording of mosquito species and population;
 - Species' spatial and temporal distribution;
 - Sampling to detect insects infected by specific pathogens (e.g. West Nile virus) where and when deemed necessary.
- Risk level ranking: Low, Moderate, High.
The surveillance programme provides feedback for the risk ranking.
In areas or periods assessed of Moderate or High risk for local transmission, the implementation or intensification of effective mosquito control measures and the public awareness for the individual measures of protection should be a priority, for the protection of health of the vulnerable groups and local population and the prevention of local transmission of mosquito-borne pathogens.
- Period of activation: Entomological surveillance should be carried out on a systematic basis and on emergency basis in necessary in the context of the mosquito control programmes.
The larvicidal applications and other measures should be implemented consistently and intensified during the mosquito flying period, in habitats located at least up to 2km from settlements hosting immigrants or refugees from countries endemic to disease transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Other:

The mosquito control is recommended to include a combination of measures and methods. It is primarily based on the use of high efficient larvicides with low environmental impacts, along with the reduction of mosquito breeding sites. It is of outmost importance, for the selection of the insecticide, to take into consideration the end-use of the water of each breeding site. In ecologically important areas only the use of products with B.t.i. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *israelensis*) is recommended. In high risk areas, overwintering shelters of adult mosquitoes should be located and sprayed before spring. Sampling and analyses for residual active substances should be conducted in areas that biocidal has been applied.

The cost for the implementation of the mosquito control programmes is covered by the Regional Administrations and the Municipalities.

Audience:

- General Secretaries of decentralised administrations
- Regional governance
- Health Services
- Panhellenic Medical Association

Scale (national/local): Regional and Local (Municipality scale).

The integrated programme of measures will be conducted at Regional scale. The Municipalities should take measures for the eradication of breeding sites, public sensitisation and if deemed necessary the adoption of supplementary measures for mosquito eradication, in parallel to the regional ones.

Technical annexes: Lists of approved biocides (larvicides and adulticides) for the control of mosquito in accordance to the EU Regulation 528/2012, along with specifications for use.

Specificities: -