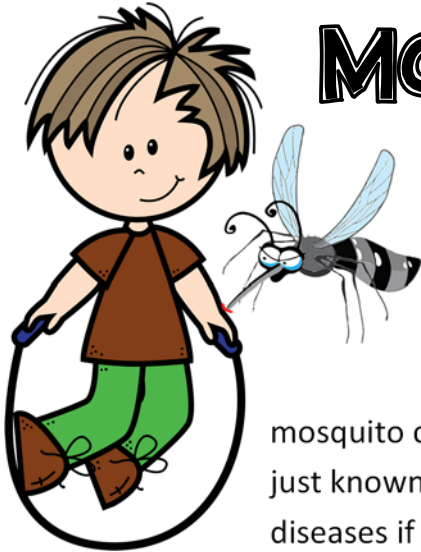


Name: _____

Mosquitoes and Virus



Did you know that not only people can transmit viruses and bacteria, animals and especially the mosquito can as well? Disease and illness like the West Nile Virus, Malaria and the Zika virus all can be spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. At this time, it is not thought that a

mosquito can infect anyone with the Corona Virus. Usually a mosquito is just known for their itchy bites but in rare circumstances, they can spread diseases if they are infected. Mosquitoes become infected if they feed off a

human or an animal that is infected. Did you know that it is just the female mosquito that can bite? They bite humans to feed on their blood but the male mosquito feeds mostly on plants. The female mosquito needs the protein from the blood to reproduce as the blood helps the eggs grow. There are many ways to avoid mosquitoes from biting or infecting you. Long sleeves can be worn, making sure there is no water sitting around and getting stagnant, use screens on windows and use insect repellants are just some ways that help prevent mosquito bites, avoid wearing dark clothing and any type of a scent. Usually when a mosquito bites, there is a raised itchy bump that goes away in a day or two. If a disease infected mosquito bites, there would be more severe symptoms that could include fever, headache, body rashes, nausea and tiredness. If the more severe reactions occur, then a visit to the doctor may be necessary to diagnose and treat the potential illness.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 How do mosquitoes spread illness?
- 2 How do mosquitoes get infected?
- 3 How can you protect yourself from getting bit by mosquitoes?
- 4 What should you do if you suspect you got a severe illness from a mosquito?
- 5 What 2 questions do you have about mosquitoes and illness?