

## **Insects and Spiders Fact Sheet**

You may encounter a variety of insects and spiders in the field. Bites and stings can induce an allergic reaction and some can be venomous. There are many diseases associated with insects and spiders including:

**Malaria**

**West Nile**

**Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Light colored, smooth finished clothing
- Long sleeves and long pants
- Insect repellent
- Insect netting

### **PREPARATION AND TRAINING**

- Research the variety of species you may encounter and recommended actions before travel.
- Research possible regional vector-borne diseases and symptoms before travel.
- If you are predisposed to an allergic reaction or asthma, consult your primary care physician and carry a life saving device like an epinephrine auto-injector or a rescue inhaler on your person at all times. Consider wearing a medical ID bracelet.
- Consult the Occupational Health Clinic or Vaden Health Center about potential immunizations and preventative measures for endemic vector-borne diseases in your field location.
- It is recommended you take a course in:

#### **Basic First Aid**

### **GENERAL SAFETY**

- Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, and other biting insects by wearing long clothing and using repellants. Follow manufacturer instructions for application.
  - DEET- Insect repellents that contain DEET offer the best protection against mosquito and insect bites. It is designed for direct application to skin to repel insects, rather than kill them.
  - Permethrin- Permethrin is a highly effective insecticide-acaricide and repellent. Permethrin-treated clothing repels and kills chiggers, mosquitoes, and other biting and nuisance arthropods. It should NEVER be used on skin.
  - Apply repellents only to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label). Do not apply repellents under your clothing.
  - Never use repellents over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Do not apply to eyes or mouth, and apply sparingly around ears. When using repellent sprays, do not spray directly on your face—spray on your hands first and then apply to your face.

## Insects and Spiders Fact Sheet

- After applying insect repellents, wash your hands before handling food.
- Do not stick your hand into a place that you cannot see.
- Do not disturb webs, beehives, wasp nests, or ant mounds.
- Be careful lifting items off the ground.
- Periodically, check yourself for insects.
- Shake out clothing, shoes, and other items before use.

### **FIRST AID TREATMENT**

- Monitor insect bites and contact medical professionals in the case of rashes, signs of infection, unusual swelling, and symptoms of illness that shortly follow being bitten.
- If it was venomous, you may need to contact emergency services. Try to identify the species, or take a photograph of it, if possible.
- Do not try to suck out venom.
- If someone experiences difficulty breathing, widespread severe swelling, dizziness, numbness, nausea, appears pale or sweaty, or becomes unconscious as a result of a bite or sting, contact emergency services.
- If you are attacked by multiple insects, run away from the swarm to prevent additional stings/bites.

### **REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [Hazards for Outdoor Workers](#)

*Illness, injury and close call events shall be reported by submitting an [SU-17](#).*

If you have questions or need support, contact EH&S's Field Safety Program at [ehs\\_field\\_safety\\_support@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:ehs_field_safety_support@lists.stanford.edu).

Permission for use granted from the University of Maryland, Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk.

SI 22-041 Oct 4, 2022