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- **Mississauga Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Program: Reporting Adverse Effects**

**FROM**

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**Summary**

- Gypsy moth infestation in areas of Mississauga.
- Aerial spray program to commence mid-May, 2007.
- Health effects from spraying considered unlikely but may include respiratory irritation, asthma, allergic reactions, skin or eye irritation.
- Health care providers are requested to report possible adverse reactions to aerial spraying to Peel Public Health for further investigation.
- Extreme gypsy moth outbreaks are associated with skin rashes and

**Foray 48B (Btk) Aerial Spraying Program**

To control an outbreak of gypsy moths in Mississauga, a contractor retained by the City of Mississauga will apply Foray 48B (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki*, Btk) aerially from mid-May to early June. There will be at least two applications and, depending on the effectiveness of the first two sprays, a third treatment may be necessary.

The applications will be done via helicopter, between 5:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., in the following Mississauga communities:

- Gordon Woods
- Staghorn Woods
- Credit Woodlands – Erindale Park
- Carriage Way – Credit Valley Golf and Country Club;
- Queensway – Huron Park
- Richard Jones Park;
- UTM – Sawmill Valley Trail
- Windrush Woods
- Meadowvale Conservation Area (P328)
- 401/Mavis area forest wood lots (west of Mavis, Park P388)

**Reporting Adverse Health Effects Related to Foray 48B Application**

If patients identify adverse reactions potentially related to the gypsy moth aerial spray program, **please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to report these cases.**

The following symptoms may be associated with Btk exposure:

- Upper respiratory tract irritation
- Asthma aggravation or episode
- Contact allergic reactions
- Skin or eye irritation

Btk is a bacterium naturally found in soils. It is expected, based on previous findings, that the potential for any short-term health impacts will be very low.<sup>1</sup>

**Minimizing Exposure to Foray 48B**

Patients who have concerns should take reasonable precautions to avoid exposure during a spray program in the same way they would avoid pollen or airborne materials on days when air quality advisories are issued.

Individuals who live in the treatment areas may wish to minimize their exposure by:

- Remaining indoors and closing windows when the spraying is taking place and up to thirty minutes thereafter.
- Covering lawn furniture, outdoor tables, play equipment and sandboxes or rinsing them off with water after spraying is finished.

<sup>1</sup> Pearce *et al.*, 2002. The effects of Aerial Spraying with *Bacillus thuringiensis* *Kurstaki* on Area residents. Environmental Health Review.

- Bringing laundry, toys and pets indoors before spraying begins.
- Practicing good personal and food hygiene (e.g. hand washing after outdoor activities, especially after gardening; washing all fruits and vegetables before eating or cooking).
- Keeping air conditioners on, however reducing the possibility of exposure to pesticides by setting the air conditioner vent to the closed position or choosing the re-circulate function.

### **Potential Health Impacts of Gypsy Moth Exposure**

Extreme gypsy moth outbreaks have been associated with skin rashes and upper respiratory tract irritation in some people exposed to airborne gypsy moth hairs, silken threads, and shed skins.

To avoid exposure to gypsy moths, children should be discouraged from playing with any gypsy moth caterpillars if they find them. The spiny hairs on the caterpillars can cause welts or a patchy rash that can persist for 4-5 days.

### **For more information**

For more health information on Btk, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

For more information on the gypsy moth infestation in areas of Mississauga, and the City's response, please contact the City of Mississauga at 905-615-3200 x7878 or visit [www.mississauga.ca/pestmanagement](http://www.mississauga.ca/pestmanagement).

**A Fact Sheet on the *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki*** prepared by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada, providing detailed health information can be found at [http://www.pmr-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/fact/fs\\_bacillus-e.pdf](http://www.pmr-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/fact/fs_bacillus-e.pdf) .