The 2018 Aerial Spray Program in Mississauga

The City of Mississauga will be conducting an aerial spray treatment to prevent tree defoliation by fall cankerworm and gypsy moth caterpillars. Aerial spraying is effective at lowering populations of these pests.

Low-flying helicopters will deliver two aerial applications:
- sometime between now and June 10, 2018.
  - Exact dates will be determined by factors such as leaf size and weather.
- during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.
- in Wards 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 11.

Health Impacts

In addition to destroying tree cover, gypsy moth caterpillar can have direct human health impacts. Skin rashes and upper respiratory tract irritation have been reported among sensitive individuals exposed to airborne gypsy moth caterpillar hairs, silken threads, and shed skins.

Residents, especially children, should be discouraged from touching or playing with gypsy moth caterpillars. The spiny hairs on the caterpillars can cause self-limiting welts or a patchy rash that can persist for 4-5 days.

Spray Product: Health and Safety

Spraying will be conducted using Foray® 48B, with its active ingredient of Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki (Btk). Btk is a naturally occurring bacterium found in soil and is the same product that was used in Mississauga’s aerial spray program in 2006 and 2007.

On reviewing data and evidence, the Region of Peel - Public Health does not anticipate any negative human health impacts from this aerial spraying. The MSDS for Foray® 48B states that it is not listed as carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic. Btk biodegrades quickly in the environment and there are no groundwater contamination concerns.

A controlled study of a similar aerial treatment program in Victoria BC found no adverse health impacts in the general population and in asthmatic children age 6-15 years old.

Residents are unlikely to experience any health effects. On rare occasions there may be some residents who are more sensitive; such individuals may report symptoms such as eye, skin or upper respiratory tract irritation. These symptoms should be treated supportively.
No special precautions are necessary or required if exposed to Foray® 48B. Individuals who have concerns may take reasonable precautions to avoid exposure during a spray program, including:

- covering outdoor items or bringing them inside before spraying begins;
- remaining indoors during spraying;
- washing outdoor items with water after spraying is finished;
- practicing good personal and food hygiene; and
- leaving air conditioner vents to the closed position or selecting the recirculate function.

To report symptoms:

Report any patient complaints with symptoms that may be attributable to the 2018 Mississauga aerial spray program to Region of Peel - Public Health at 905-799-7700.

This number can also be used by health professionals and members of the general public to discuss health-related questions around aerial spraying.

For more information:

For details on the 2018 Mississauga aerial spray program and to sign up for notification for the spray dates, visit www.mississauga.ca/2018spray or call 905-615-4311.

UPDATED: Tick Submission for Lyme Disease

Based on recommendations from physicians, the Region of Peel – Public Health has amended the recommendations for submitting ticks. When patients provide a tick (dead or alive) for testing:

- Place the specimen in a small container with a tight fitting lid; and
- Submit ticks to Region of Peel - Public Health with the a completed Public Health Ontario (PHO) Tick Identification form:


    o Submissions are accepted at 7120 Hurontario Street in Mississauga. Direct patients to the Access Peel desk in the lobby with the sample container and completed PHO form.

NOTE: Only submit ticks found on humans. Do not wait for tick testing results before beginning treatment, if indicated.

References:

