

Script – Print – The buzz on mosquitoes

Breanne Gendron, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"Mosquitoes bite us for their nutrition, and some people are more apt to be bitten than others," says.
"Mosquitoes are drawn to dark colors. But then once they get closer to you, they smell carbon dioxide and lactic acid that lives in our bodies. And some people have a higher level of those things than others."
(:17)

Breanne Gendron, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"Mosquito bites in general are just annoying and itchy, but you can get more serious infections from mosquitoes, such as Zika virus or West Nile virus. Our animals sometimes get these infections too." (:12)

Breanne Gendron, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"The more you are exposed to bites, the itchier you become. Because your body is exposed to the [bug's] saliva, you have an immune response and your histamines release. It makes a little red, itchy bump. These can be really pronounced, especially in young kids, because their immune systems are boisterous."
(:20)

Breanne Gendron, nurse practitioner, OSF HealthCare

"They're more likely to be out, bothering people, near bodies of water. They're next to the lake when you're camping, for example. Those are the types of places mosquitoes hang out, because they generally live where it's damp." (:17)