Insect Repellent: Safety Considerations

• Do not allow young children to apply insect repellent to themselves; have an adult do it for them.

• Apply it to your own hands and then rub your hands on the child.

• Avoid children’s eyes and mouth and use it sparingly around their ears. Do not apply over cuts, wounds, or irritated or sunburned skin.

• Do not apply repellent to children’s hands; children may tend to put their hands in their mouths.

• Use just enough to cover exposed skin.

• Do not apply repellent to skin under clothing.

• Do not use sprays in enclosed areas or near food.

• Reapply if washed off by sweating or by getting wet.

• Wash the treated skin with soap and water when the children return inside.

• If repellent is applied to clothing, wash treated clothing before wearing again.

• Keep repellents out of reach of children.

• If a child develops a rash or other reaction from any insect repellent, discontinue use, wash the repellent off with soap and water and contact the poison control center (800-222-1222) or a physician, followed by the child’s parent.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. What You Need to Know About Mosquito Repellent. 2007. Available at: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/mosquitorepellent.htm