



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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MARK BENTON • Deputy Secretary for Health

SUSAN KANSAGRA MD, MBA • Assistant Secretary for Public Health, Division of Public Health

Date: January 1, 2024
To: Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students
From: Dr. Alexis M. Barbarin & Mr. Michael Doyle, Public Health Entomologists,
Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch
Subject: Annual Fight the Bite Campaign (3 pages)

Attention Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students,

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch is excited to announce the annual **"Fight the Bite!"** campaign. We want you to help us educate North Carolinians about the prevention of vector-borne diseases by 'fighting the bite!' Ticks and mosquitoes cause a great deal of illness in North Carolina, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease and La Crosse Encephalitis. We invite all K-12 students across the state to create and submit an educational poster that may be used in this statewide campaign. We hope your participation will be both fun and a valuable learning experience.

If you are a parent or teacher of a participating student, please help them follow the instructions below to create their poster and submit it on time. Students should design their posters with a clear message about how they plan to **"Fight the Bite!"** and prevent tick- and mosquito-borne illnesses.

Rules:

1. The poster contest is open to all students K-12 across the state of North Carolina. There will be three grade categories: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.
2. Students must create their posters on an 8 ½" X 11" sheet of paper in either landscape or portrait layout. Only one submission per student is allowed.
3. All art must be original! Submissions should be colorful and eye-catching. Any text should be large enough to read, legible and spelled correctly.
4. Students may pick any theme related to "Fight the Bite" or any topic relating to the prevention of tick- and mosquito-borne illnesses.
5. Each participating student should fill out an entry form and tape it to the back of their poster. Do not staple.
6. The deadline to submit posters is **Monday, April 8, 2024**.
7. Posters must be mailed to the address below in an envelope big enough to hold the poster without folding and should be labeled **"Do Not Fold."** Posters can also be scanned and emailed to alexis.barbarin@dhhs.nc.gov. Fax submissions will not be accepted. Mail your submissions to:

Dr. Alexis M. Barbarin
225 N. McDowell St.
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1902

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 225 North McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 1902 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1902
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919.733.7301 • FAX: 919.733.1020

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

If a student is picked as a finalist, an email will be sent to the student's teacher, school principal or their parent. Three students from each grade category will be selected as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Winners will be recognized on the NCDHHS website.

How will the posters be judged and used?

1. The Communicable Disease Branch will select a panel of judges to review all entries and choose the winners from each grade level category.
2. Winning entries will be based on creativity, originality and the ability to convey information about the prevention of vector-borne diseases.
3. Winning posters will be displayed on the Division of Public Health website, in schools, local health departments and other state government buildings to help motivate others to "Fight the Bite!"
4. The illustrators of the winning posters will be presented with awards.
5. All posters become the property of the Division of Public Health and may be used for future education materials and will not be returned.

Art Tips:

- Artwork must be original!
- Be neat and clean and fill up as much of the page as possible.
- You can use markers, crayons, colored pencils or paint. However, posters should not be 3D. Entries can also be created via digital media.
- Are you bilingual? Great! We welcome messages in any language! Just be sure to add a separate sheet of paper with your messaging in English so that our entomologists understand your content.
- Use your creativity and art skills to show us how you "Fight the Bite" and protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks.
- Remember, mosquitoes have six legs and two wings, and ticks can have six or eight legs depending on if they are at an immature stage or adult. Make sure your drawing is accurate!
- You can also take this opportunity to inform readers about any of the following vector-borne diseases that occur in NC: anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Bourbon virus, Heartland virus, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) or La Crosse Encephalitis. You can also educate the public on travel associated vector-borne diseases including but not limited to malaria, dengue, Zika virus and yellow fever.

For any questions call (919)546-1623 or email alexis.barbarin@dhhs.nc.gov

Annual "Fight the Bite!" Poster Contest Entry Form

***Please attach a completed copy of this entry form to the back of your poster with tape.**

Posters submitted without name or grade will not be accepted.

Student's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
Teacher or Principal's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email _____
Parent's Name: _____ Signature: _____ Phone _____
School Name: _____
Address: _____

All entries must be received by the Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch, 1902 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC, 27699-1902 or alexis.barbarin@dhhs.nc.gov by **Monday, April 8, 2024**.
Sponsored by: State of North Carolina Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

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Here are some online tick and mosquito disease prevention resources to help build your poster:

- *NC Division of Public Health, Fight the Bite Contest:*
<https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/vector/contest.html>
- *Center for Disease Control:*
<https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/>
- *Other Fight the Bite Campaigns:*
Transylvania County (NC) Public Health: <http://transylvaniahealth.org/fightthebite/>
Sacramento (Calif.): <https://www.fightthebite.net/programs/fight-the-bite-contest/>
Maricopa County (Ariz.): <https://www.maricopa.gov/2423/Fight-the-Bite>
Louisiana Department of Health: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/1930>
San Diego County (Calif.) Environmental Health and Quality:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/pests/kids.html>
Colorado: <http://fightthebitecolorado.com/kids.htm>