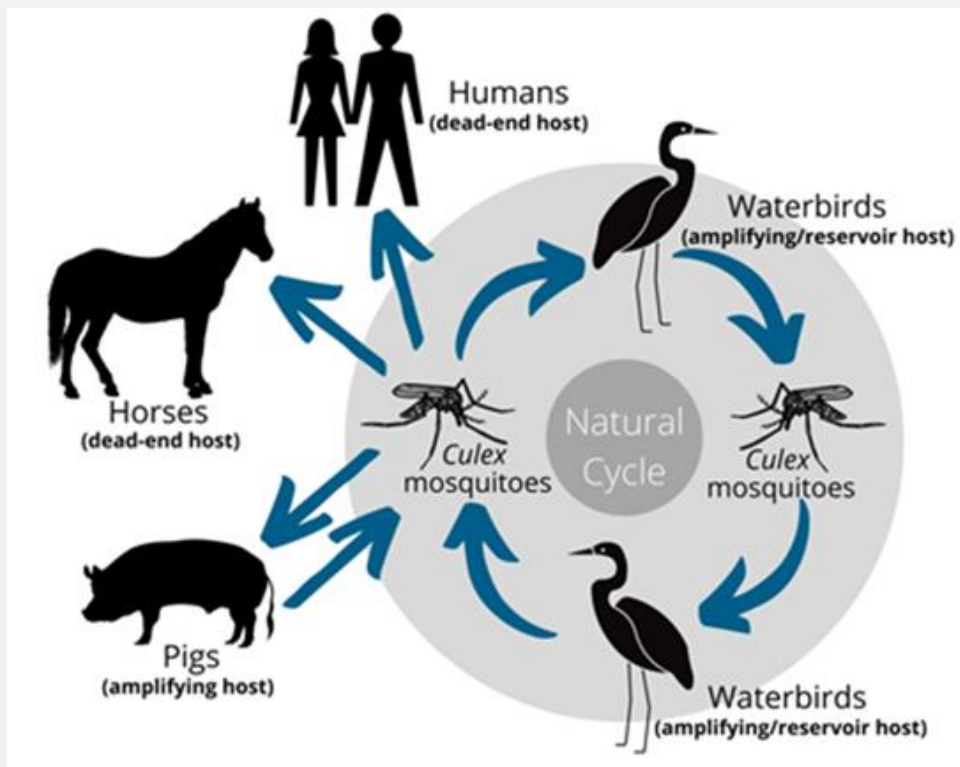


**You are looking at a mosquito trap. Please do not disturb. We are collecting adult mosquitoes in this area tonight to test them for Japanese encephalitis virus.**

Below are answers to some frequently asked questions.

**What is Japanese Encephalitis?**

*Japanese Encephalitis* is a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain caused by the Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV). Humans cannot get JEV by touching an infected animal or eating animal products. JEV is spread to humans through the bite of only a few species of mosquito. These mosquitoes must have first been infected by biting waterbirds, pigs, and other animals that can carry the virus (see Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Diagram showing the JEV transmission cycle (courtesy [Japanese encephalitis virus - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](http://Japanese encephalitis virus - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au)))

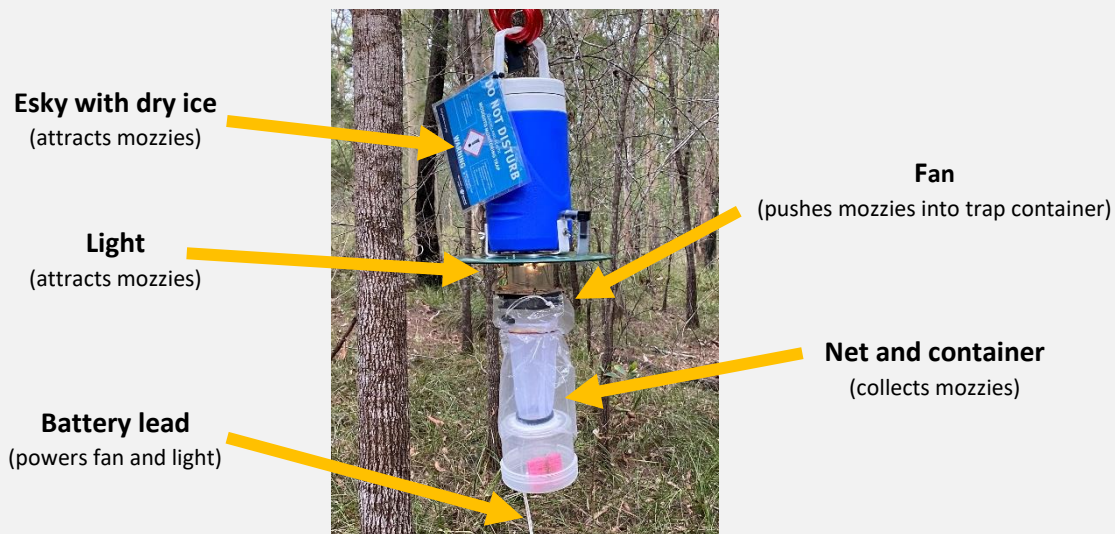
In 2022 JEV was detected in Queensland and other states in Australia. In response, Queensland Health is working closely with the [Australian Government](http://Australian Government) and Local Governments.

**A state-wide mosquito monitoring program for JEV**

Queensland Health has enhanced surveillance of wetland mosquitoes and testing for JEV to provide an early-warning system for the arrival of virus from affected areas. Mosquitoes are collected using these traps that are deployed overnight and baited with CO<sub>2</sub> (dry ice). All mosquitoes collected are sent to Queensland Health’s Forensic and Scientific Services laboratory for JEV testing.

**What is a mosquito trap?**

Mosquito traps collect adult mosquitoes that are attracted to the light and CO<sub>2</sub> (see Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Mosquito trap.

**Mosquitoes of interest**

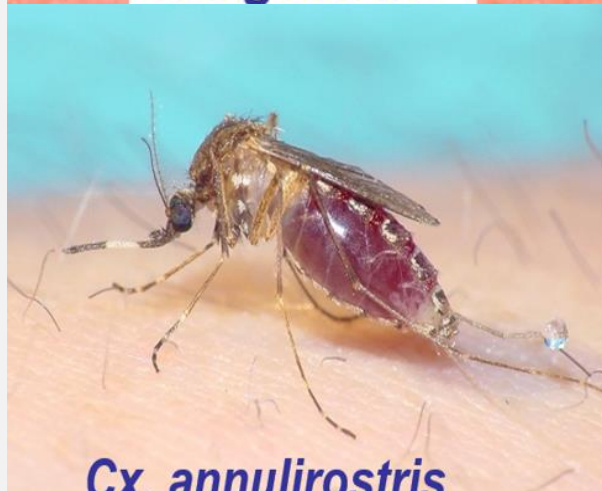
There are many different species in Queensland. Four *Culex* species (below) are of particular interest for JEV transmission.



***Cx. gelidus***



***Cx. sitiens***



***Cx. annulirostris***



***Cx. quinquefasciatus***

## How to protect yourself

There are two ways to protect yourself from JEV infection:

1. Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes
2. Receive a [vaccination](#) for the virus.

You can protect yourself from mosquito bites by:

- applying an approved insect repellent on exposed skin. Effective repellents contain diethyltoluamide (DEET), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (always follow label directions)
- wearing long, loose fitting clothing when mosquitoes are active
- ensuring accommodation, including tents, are properly fitted with mosquito nettings or screens
- using insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units (indoors) and mosquito coils (outdoors) to clear rooms and repel mosquitoes from an area
- removing any water-holding containers where mosquitoes may breed.

For further information, including eligibility for the JEV vaccine, please visit the [Queensland Health Japanese Encephalitis](#) homepage, [Japanese encephalitis virus - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#) or contact your local [Public Health Unit](#).

### Japanese Encephalitis Translated Factsheets

[Vietnamese simplified Japanese encephalitis factsheet](#)

[Thai simplified Japanese encephalitis factsheet](#)

[Korean simplified Japanese encephalitis factsheet](#)

[Filipino simplified Japanese Encephalitis factsheet](#)

[Chinese Simplified Japanese encephalitis factsheet](#)

[English Japanese encephalitis factsheet](#)