National Environment Agency
Safeguard · Nurture · Cherish

Building and Construction Authority
An MND Statutory Board

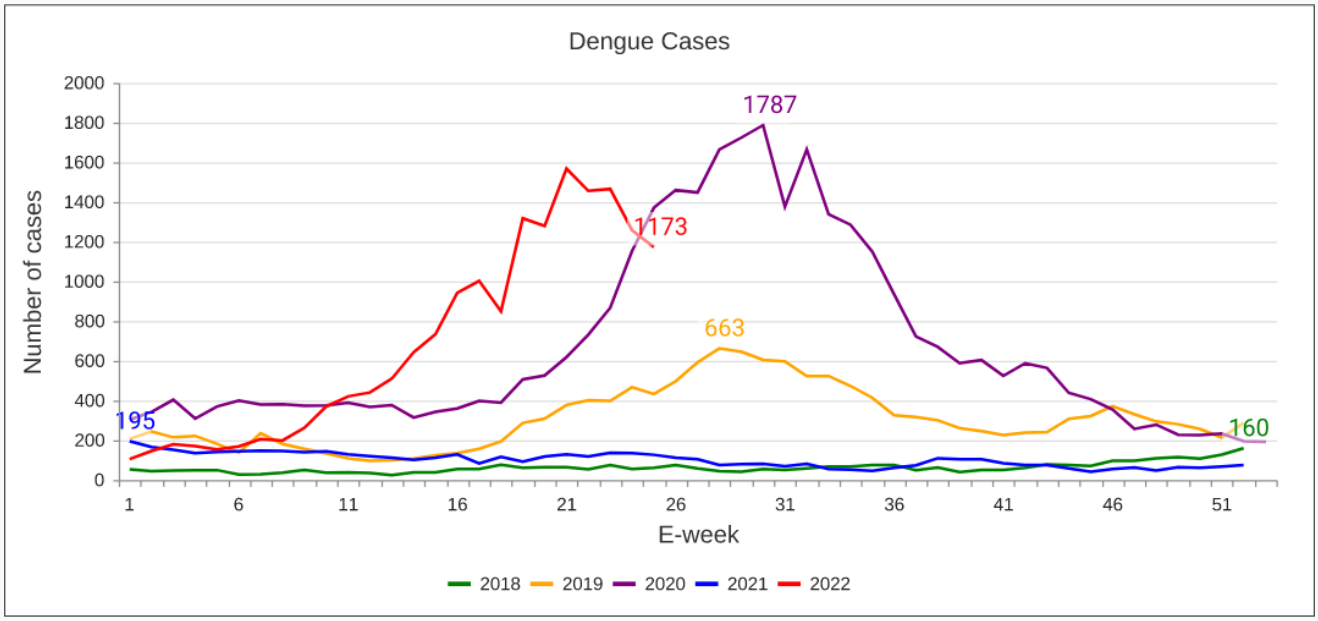
29 June 2022

Dear Contractors,

URGENCY TO STEP UP MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES IN CONSTRUCTION SITES

The weekly number of reported dengue cases stands at 1173 cases for the week ending 25 June 2022 (image 1). More than 17000 cases have been reported since the start of 2022, exceeding the total number of cases reported in the whole of 2021 (5258 cases). This is also higher than the cumulative number in 2020 for the same period (12363 cases), when Singapore experienced its largest outbreak. As of 28 June 2022, there were 352 active dengue clusters, with 133 of them having 10 or more dengue cases reported.

Image 1



2 The surge in dengue cases this year is driven by the continued circulation of the less common Dengue virus serotype 3 (DENV-3) and the high adult *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito population. Whilst we are seeing a reduction in the weekly dengue cases for the 4th consecutive week, the weekly number of dengue cases remains high; this is the 7th consecutive week with more than 1000 reported cases. We are still in the midst of the traditional peak dengue season (June to October), where dengue cases may increase rapidly if potential breeding habitats are not removed.

3 To effectively control the dengue transmission, a collective effort by all stakeholders is critical. Every stakeholder in the community (i.e., residents, premises owners and occupiers) has to play a part in eradicating mosquito breeding habitats to prevent an upsurge of the number of dengue cases.

4 BCA and NEA would like to seek **all contractors' assistance to urgently step up and undertake the following dengue prevention measures within their construction sites**:

a. Proper housekeeping within sites and Construction Temporary Quarters (CTQs)

- Ensure proper refuse management and advocate a daily housekeeping regime to remove all unwanted items, organic waste, and water-bearing receptacles. Construction/Demolition waste should also be removed on a regular basis.
- Ensure building materials are properly stored under shelter to prevent accumulation of water (Image 2.1 and 2.2). Building materials that cannot be stored under shelters should be raised at least 30cm off the ground to facilitate regularly checks, especially after rainfall.
- Ensure stagnant water in ground puddles and drains are removed, where possible. Uneven ground should be backfilled, and drains should be desilted regularly to prevent water accumulation and stagnation. (Image 2.3)
- For sites reaching Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) status, ensure that all amenities connected to any water supply or drainage system (e.g., gully traps, toilet cistern) are sealed and mosquito-proofed, until the buildings/rooms are handed over. If not feasible, regular checks and treatment should be carried out.
- Identify long term and sustainable measures. (e.g., repair structural defects within properties which could lead to stagnation of water)

Image 2.1

Image 2.2

Image 2.3

b. Vector control management

- Engage a licensed vector control operator to carry out vector inspections and treatment covering the entire site (including floor to floor) at least once a week. To complement the vector control efforts, construction companies should form in-house teams to inspect and remove potential breeding habitats daily. Larger sites may be sectorised into smaller parcels, for the in-house teams to complete all parcels within 1 week.
- Add sand granular insecticide or Bti to stagnant water bodies that cannot be removed.
- For construction sites intending to construct a CTQ on site, contractors are strongly urged to engage a licensed vector control operator to carry out at least 1 round of Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in the CTQs before allowing workers to move in and thereafter to carry out IRS once a month.

c. Enhancement of personnel protection on-site

- Distribute mosquito repellents to all staff working on site and advocate a culture of applying repellent at the start of, and throughout the day at regular intervals. Repellents should contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), picardin and IR3535.
- CTQs should preferably be mosquito-proof (i.e., air-conditioned or to have mosquito-proof screen nets) and have mosquito repellent as well as aerosol insecticide spray cans readily available in the CTQs.
- Implement a daily temperature taking regime. Staff found to have fever should be referred to a clinic immediately. You may refer to the MOH website for symptoms of dengue (https://www.moh.gov.sg/diseases-updates/dengue).

5 For the latest updates on dengue clusters and whether the construction site is located in one of the cluster areas, you may visit https://www.nea.gov.sg/dengue-zika/dengue/dengue-clusters. Alternatively, you may also tag your location using the myENV app for dengue alerts (please refer to Annex A for steps to enable notifications on myENV app).

6 For more information, you may submit your enquires electronically via the Online Feedback Form (www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/feedback) or myENV mobile application.

7 Thank you for your cooperation in our collective fight against Dengue.

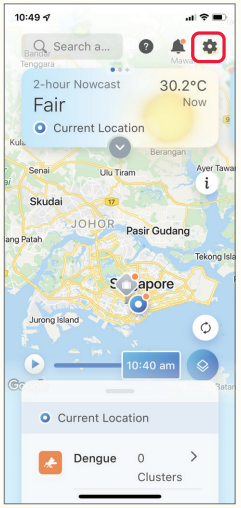
Annex A

Step-by-Step Guide

to set notification for dengue clusters and areas with high *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population in myENV app

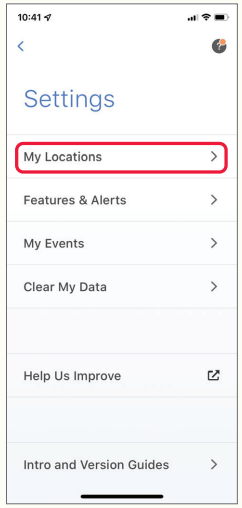
STEP 1

Tap the setup icon.



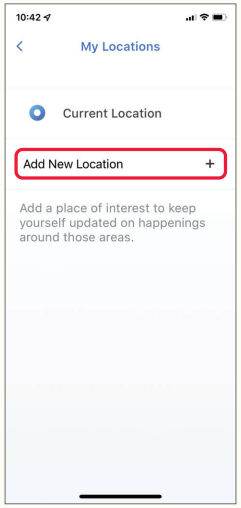
STEP 2

Tap "My Locations".



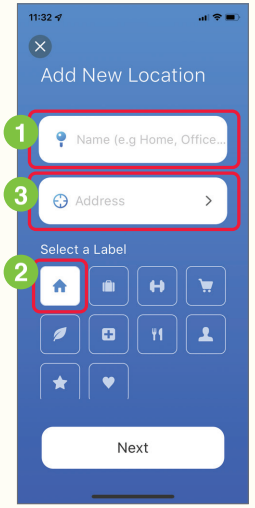
STEP 3

Tap "Add New Location".



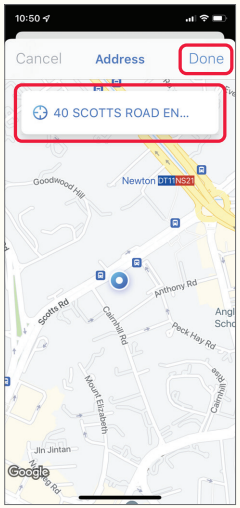
STEP 4

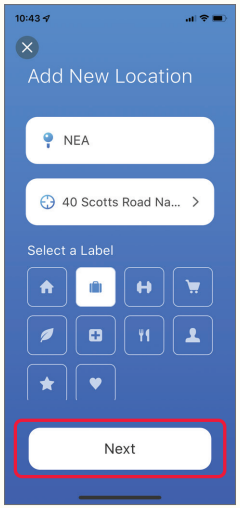
Enter name of location; select a label to match the location; enter address of location.



STEP 5

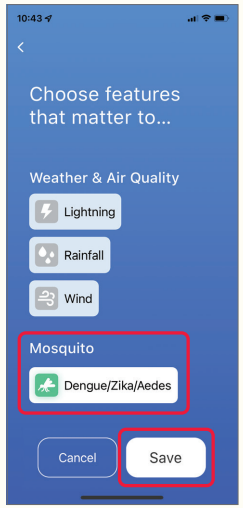
Enter address of location, tap "Done". Tap "Next".





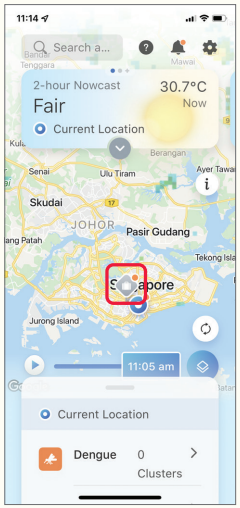
STEP 6

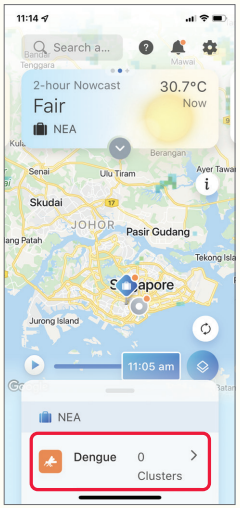
Tap "Dengue/Zika/Aedes". Tap "Save".



STEP 7

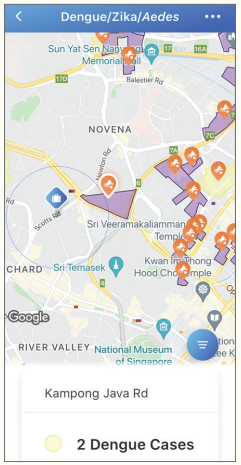
Return to home screen. Tap location icon. Scroll down, tap "Dengue".





STEP 8

Map of the nearest dengue cluster or area with high *Aedes* mosquito population will be shown.



For more information, please visit **www.nea.gov.sg**

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