

Science

Topic: Vectors

Objectives:

Define the term vector

Identify invertebrates that are vectors

Describe the characteristics of invertebrate vectors (insects)

Explain how factors affect the health and well-being of Bahamians.

Discuss ways to eliminate vectors

Vectors

## Flies

- **Flies** can only take in food in **liquid form** but they feed on anything including garbage, rotting food, faeces and dead bodies.
- They vomit on solid foods to turn them into **liquids** before sucking them up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-1vIKayziU>

Notes.

Organisms that spread germs and diseases are called **VECTORS**.

When insects such as flies, mosquitoes and cockroaches transfer germs and diseases to human beings from infected sites. When vectors feed, they come into contact with germs which they carry about in their stomachs, all attached to the hairs on their legs and bodies.

Mosquitoes transmit the germs that cause dengue fever. This happens when a mosquito sucks the blood of an infected person then puts this blood into a healthy person when it tries to take blood from

that healthy person. Mosquitoes must lay their eggs in water. Because of this we can reduce their chance off young mosquitoes producing by removing empty containers on other items that trap water, by draining ponds and swamps by spreading areas where they breathe with insecticides.

Flies can only take in food in liquid form but they feed on anything including garbage, rotting food, feces and dead bodies. They vomit on solid foods to turn them into liquid before sucking them up. When flies feed, germs stick to their bodies and if they learn on our food, some of the germs drop off. When we eat this food, germs enter our bodies and make us sick. Flies lay their eggs and substances they feed on.

To prevent the increase in fly population we must reduce their chances of laying eggs. To do this we must dispose all garbage properly and have dead bodies and refuse removed responsibly by the ministry of environmental health.

Cockroaches live in dump, dog dirty places. They feed on almost anything including the food we eat and they spread germs and diseases in the same way flies do. By keeping our environment clean, litter free and disposing off garbage properly we can prevent the spreading and proliferation of factors