

Southeastern Massachusetts Aerial Mosquito Spray Details and Map

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources conducted aerial spraying for mosquitoes twice in southeastern Massachusetts; first from **August 8-11** and again from **August 21-25**.

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes occurred in New Bedford Friday, August 23 into the early morning of Saturday, August 24. On Friday, August 23, a deceased bird found in the Buttonwood Park area of New Bedford was tested and found positive for EEE. New Bedford and surrounding municipalities have had multiple positive tests of bird-biting and mammal-biting mosquitoes with EEE, leading to the classification of the risk in Greater New Bedford as 'critical' for EEE.

In total, there are 28 communities now at critical risk, 37 at high risk, and 126 at moderate risk for the EEE virus in Massachusetts. Many communities were raised to moderate risk based on current EEE activity and on patterns of historical risk. A map of the state's current EEE risk levels can be found **here**. There have been four confirmed human cases of EEE this year.

Targeted ground spraying for mosquitoes is planned in New Bedford for Friday, August 30 and again on Tuesday, September 3.

Full

details:

<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/targeted-ground-spraying-7/2019/08/29>

Massachusetts Public Health Officials Announce Four Confirmed Cases of EEE in Horses

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that laboratory testing has confirmed four new cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection in horses from Holliston, Medfield, Brookfield and Granby, bringing the total number of horse cases of EEE to seven in Massachusetts this year. As a result, the risk level in Holliston, Medfield, Brookfield and Granby has been raised to critical and in Belchertown, Brimfield, Chicopee, East Brookfield, Ludlow, Medway, Millis, North Brookfield, Sherborn, South Hadley, Sturbridge, Walpole, and West Brookfield the risk level has been raised to high.

In total, there are 28 communities now at critical risk, 37 at high risk, and 126 at moderate risk for the EEE virus in Massachusetts. Many communities were raised to moderate risk based on current EEE activity and on patterns of historical risk. A map of the state's current EEE risk levels can be found [here](#).

There have been four confirmed human cases of EEE this year.

“As we head into the Labor Day weekend and the month of September people should not forget to bring and use an EPA-approved mosquito repellent for any outdoor activities,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “The peak time for transmission of mosquito-borne illness extends through September here in Massachusetts.”

All residents throughout the Commonwealth should continue to use mosquito repellent and those in high and critical risk communities should consider staying indoors during the dusk to dawn hours to reduce exposure to mosquitoes.

“Horses and other mammals are an important part of mosquito-borne disease surveillance because they are exposed by the same kinds of mosquitoes that can expose people,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE occurs sporadically in Massachusetts with the most recent outbreak years occurring from 2004-2006 and 2010-2012. There were 22 human cases of EEE infection during those two outbreak periods with 14 cases occurring among residents of Bristol and Plymouth counties.

EEE virus has been found in 366 mosquito samples this year, many of them from species of mosquitoes capable of spreading the virus to people.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has conducted aerial mosquito spraying in parts of Bristol, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties to help reduce public health risk. However, spraying does not eliminate the risk of EEE transmission and the public is asked to continue to follow personal protection practices.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in

concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

For the most up-to-date information available on spraying locations, visit the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Aerial Spraying Map: <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/>

For other updates, Q&As, and downloadable fact sheets in multiple languages visit the DPH webpage www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019.

New Bedford Public Schools cancels all outdoor evening activities due to EEE

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has classified the risk level in Greater New Bedford as 'critical' for EEE. Due to the serious threat of exposure to the mosquito-borne illness, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Superintendent Thomas Anderson has ordered, effective immediately, that all outdoor activities and events are to be concluded no later than 6:00 p.m. Sports practice sessions, previously scheduled games and outdoor band rehearsal times will be adjusted. Students and parents will be notified of these changes as soon as possible.

"Please understand that we are not permitted to apply mosquito repellent, however, parents may choose to apply repellent to their student before coming to school," he said.

"We are committed to ensuring the safety of our staff and students. We need to ensure that everyone, students and adults, understand the seriousness of this illness," Superintendent Anderson said.

For the latest information on the EEE threat, please refer to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health: www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases

East Beach in New Bedford reopened to swimming

The New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches reopened East Beach to swimming today, Wednesday, August 28, 2019. The beach had been closed for a portion of Tuesday, August 27 and Wednesday, August 28, due to a reported oil sheen in the area of East Beach.

The New Bedford Fire Department along with other municipal, state, and federal authorities responded to the report. The reported leak was determined to be diesel fuel; there is no fuel or oil detectable in the area of East Beach as of today, August 28, 2019.

The state and federal government require the monitoring of water quality at public beaches during the bathing season. The New Bedford Health Department monitors the quality at New Bedford's public beaches throughout the summer.

City health officials will continue to monitor the water quality at all municipal beaches for any significant changes.

For more information on this topic, visit the New Bedford Health Department Municipal Marine Laboratory Page: <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/municipal-marine-lab/>.

PACE – Health Access offers FREE assistance to seniors over 65 who are applying for Medicare and other health insurance programs

PACE's Health Access Program announces that they have a Senior Health Specialist available on Fridays from 9:00am – 3:00pm (by appointment only) to assist seniors with their health insurance applications. There is no charge for this service.

The Senior Health Specialist will assist anyone over 65 with their applications for Medicare Part A, part B, and part D; Medigap insurance, Medicare HMOs, retiree insurance plans, prescription drug programs, Medicaid and Medicare.

In addition, Pace Health Access Program continues to assist anyone under age 65 with their health insurance needs. Trained Navigators assist clients who do not have health insurance by helping them apply for health insurance to the Massachusetts Health Connector and/or Mass Health. For more information for this free program or to make an appointment please call 508-999-9920.

PACE – People Acting in Community Endeavors, Inc.

The mission of PACE is to provide services and resources for people in need to improve their quality of life. Through work with community partners, P.A.C.E., Inc. develops and supports strategies that encourage self-sufficiency.

PACE programs include: Child Care Works, YB Youth Development

Center, The Family Center, Head Start, Housing Services, Fuel Assistance, Clemente Course, Tax Preparation, Health Access, and Food Bank.

New Bedford's East Beach closed to swimming today

The New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches has announced that East Beach has been closed to swimming today, Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

The New Bedford Fire Department along with other municipal and state agencies is currently investigating a potential oil sheen off of East Beach. East Beach will be closed until further notice from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches.

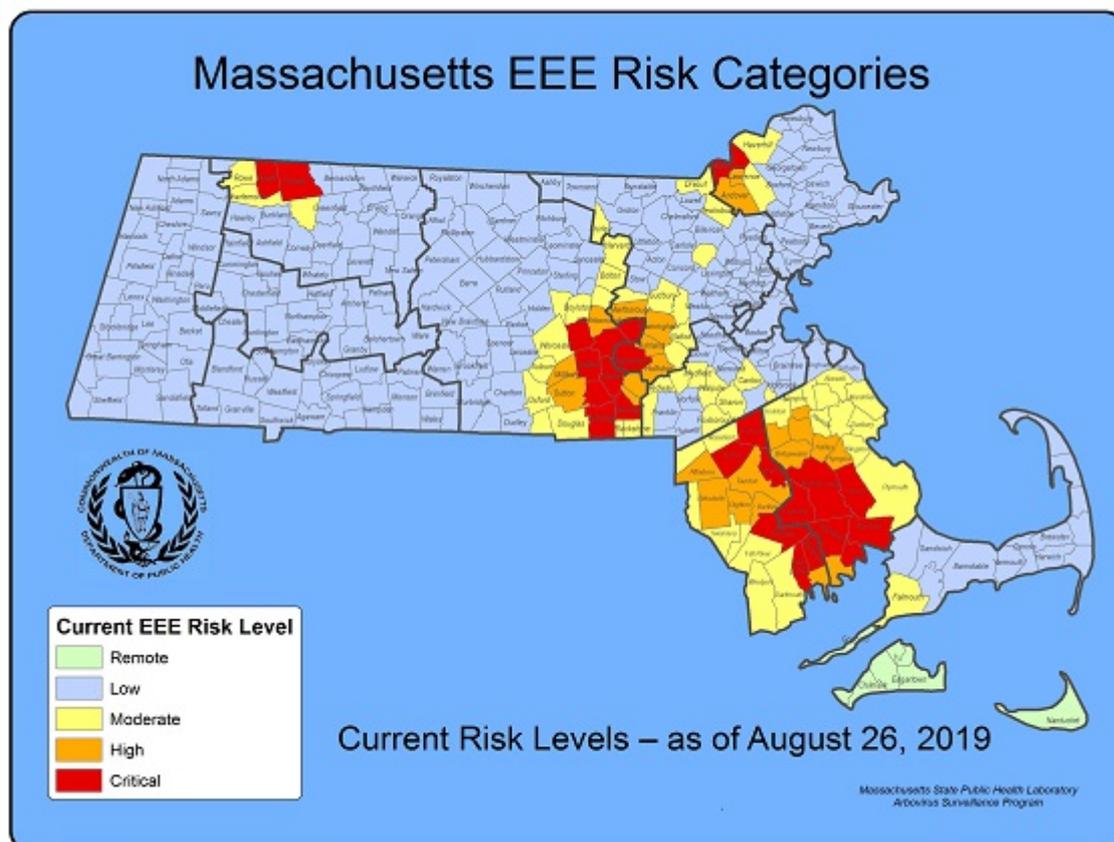
The water at all New Bedford beaches is tested regularly and will be tested daily until acceptable water quality levels are obtained and swimming can resume at all sections. Further updates regarding openings and closures will be made as water quality results are received.

Massachusetts Public Health Officials Announce Confirmed

Case of EEE in a Horse in Methuen

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) yesterday announced that laboratory testing has confirmed a case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection in a horse from Methuen. This is the third horse case of EEE in Massachusetts this year. As a result, the risk level in Methuen has been raised to critical and Andover and Lawrence are now at high.

In total across Massachusetts, there are 24 communities now at critical risk, 24 at high risk, and 55 at moderate risk for the EEE virus. Here's a map of the state's current EEE risk levels:



Yesterday, DPH announced the fourth confirmed human case of EEE in Massachusetts this year, a woman over 50 from southern

Bristol County. Based on the timing of the patient's exposure, the elevated risk levels throughout Bristol and Plymouth counties, and the completion of the second aerial spraying in the region which concluded over the weekend, there are no risk level changes for communities in Bristol and Plymouth counties at this time.

DPH and the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) were scheduled to begin aerial spraying in specific areas of Worcester and Middlesex counties Sunday, August 25. However, the ability to spray is weather-dependent and as a result of low evening temperatures, spraying did not occur last night but will begin as soon as weather permits.

Residents are encouraged to visit the DPH website at www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019 for the latest updates on spraying in their communities.

"Although cooler weather will start to reduce mosquito populations, the season is not over yet," said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "We are urging people across the state to remember that the peak time for transmission of mosquito-borne illness extends through September here in Massachusetts."

DPH is working with several state agencies including MDAR, local boards of health, local Mosquito Control Projects, and other mosquito control experts on mosquito surveillance and appropriate public health response activities.

All residents throughout the Commonwealth should continue to use mosquito repellent and those in high and critical risk communities should consider staying indoors during the dusk to dawn hours to reduce exposure to mosquitoes.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE occurs sporadically in Massachusetts with the most recent outbreak years occurring from 2004-2006 and 2010-2012. There were 22 human cases of EEE

infection during those two outbreak periods with 14 cases occurring among residents of Bristol and Plymouth counties.

EEE virus has been found in 334 mosquito samples this year, many of them from species of mosquitoes capable of spreading the virus to people.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having

tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

For the most up-to-date information available on spraying locations, visit the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Aerial Spraying Map: <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/>

For other updates, Q&As, and downloadable fact sheets in multiple languages visit the DPH webpage www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019

Information including all West Nile virus and EEE positive results can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Massachusetts Public Health Officials Announce Fourth Human Case of EEE

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that laboratory testing has confirmed a case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection in a female over the age of 50 who is a resident of southern Bristol County. This is the fourth human case of EEE in Massachusetts this year.

DPH is working with several state agencies including MDAR, local boards of health, local Mosquito Control Projects, and other mosquito control experts on mosquito surveillance and appropriate public health response activities.

All residents throughout the Commonwealth should continue to use mosquito repellent and those in high and critical risk communities should consider staying indoors during the dusk to dawn hours to reduce exposure to mosquitoes.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE occurs sporadically in Massachusetts with the most recent outbreak years occurring from 2004-2006 and 2010-2012. There were 22 human cases of EEE infection during those two outbreak periods with 14 cases occurring among residents of Bristol and Plymouth Counties.

EEE virus has been found in 333 mosquito samples this year, many of them from species of mosquitoes capable of spreading the virus to people.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to

mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

Information including all West Nile virus and EEE positive results can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Public Health Officials Announce Third Human Case of EEE in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that laboratory testing has confirmed a case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection, in a male over the age of 60 who was exposed to the virus in northern Franklin County. This is the third human case of EEE in Massachusetts this year. The risk level in two communities in Franklin County has been raised to critical as a result. In addition, one horse from Mendon and one horse from Uxbridge have also tested positive for the EEE virus, raising the risk level to critical in two additional communities in Worcester County.

The four communities now at critical risk are Heath and Colrain in Franklin County, and Mendon and Uxbridge in Worcester County.

Earlier this week, DPH and the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced aerial spraying in specific areas of Worcester and Middlesex Counties scheduled to begin Sunday August 25, weather permitting, continuing for several evenings. As a result of the elevated risk in several communities, the spray zone is being expanded. The additional communities either partially or fully in the spray zone are Blackstone, Douglas, Dudley, Holliston, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville, Oxford, Uxbridge, and Webster.

Additionally, MDAR is currently conducting a second round of aerial spraying in areas of Southeastern Massachusetts which began on Wednesday, August 21 and is expected to continue through the weekend.

Residents are encouraged to visit the DPH website at www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019 for the latest updates on spraying in their communities.

“We are seeing the most intense level of EEE activity that we have in several years. The largest area is in Bristol and Plymouth Counties with a second focus of activity in parts of Worcester and Middlesex Counties,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “We are urging people across the state to remember that the peak time for transmission of mosquito-borne illness extends through September here in Massachusetts.”

In total across Massachusetts, there are 23 communities now at critical risk, 22 at high risk, and 52 at moderate risk for the EEE virus.

DPH is working with several state agencies including MDAR, local boards of health, local Mosquito Control Projects, and other mosquito control experts on mosquito surveillance and appropriate public health response activities.

All residents throughout the Commonwealth should continue to use mosquito repellent and those in high and critical risk

communities should consider staying indoors during the dusk to dawn hours to reduce exposure to mosquitoes.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE occurs sporadically in Massachusetts with the most recent outbreak years occurring from 2004-2006 and 2010-2012. There were 22 human cases of EEE infection during those two outbreak periods with 14 cases occurring among residents of Bristol and Plymouth Counties.

EEE virus has been found in 330 mosquito samples this year, many of them from species of mosquitoes capable of spreading the virus to people.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

For the most up-to-date information available on spraying locations, visit the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Aerial Spraying Map: <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/>

For other updates, Q&As, and downloadable fact sheets in multiple languages visit the DPH webpage www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019

Information including all West Nile virus and EEE positive results can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Efforts to combat mosquito threats continue in New Bedford

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes that began on Wednesday, August 22, is expected overnight in New Bedford tonight, Friday, August 23 into the early morning of Saturday, August 24.

Presence of EEE in Buttonwood Park Area

Deceased wildlife are indicators of possible EEE or West Nile Virus in an area. On Friday, August 23, a deceased bird found in the Buttonwood Park area of New Bedford was tested and found positive for EEE. New Bedford and surrounding municipalities have had multiple positive tests of bird-biting and mammal-biting mosquitoes with EEE, leading to the classification of the risk in Greater New Bedford as 'critical' for EEE.

State Guidance for Residents in Critical Risk Areas

According to the state's Department of Public Health (DPH), it remains critically important for people in communities at critical, high and moderate risk for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) to continue to take personal precautions against mosquito bites. These steps include using EPA-approved bug spray, wearing long sleeves and pants outdoors to reduce exposed skin, and cancelling outdoor activities in the hours from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

Dusk Closures Continue

The City of New Bedford recently began closing parks and other

open public spaces at dusk in response to the risk of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Closures will continue until Friday, September 13; park lights will be turned off at dusk (approximately 7:30 p.m.). The park closures will be reevaluated and the City will announce its plans from September 13 onward. Athletic leagues and other organizations utilizing the park should not continue their activities beyond dusk, due to the increased risk of EEE.

Ground Sprayings Continue

Ground spraying for mosquitoes will continue through the summer in the early mornings of Fridays and Tuesdays. The state is also conducting aerial sprayings. Friday rounds of spraying will target areas including Buttonwood Park, Brooklawn Park, Fort Taber, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, Clasky Common Park, Ashley Park, the Poor Farm area, Custom House Square and the downtown area. Tuesday rounds of spraying will target the far North End of the city, including the areas surrounding the New Bedford Business Park, New Bedford Regional Airport, Sassaquin Pond, and Acushnet Avenue north of Phillips Avenue. Ground spraying occurs place between 2:00 am and sunrise on Friday and Tuesday morning, weather permitting. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows this evening prior to the spraying.

Precautionary Measures

The same precautionary measures are advised for EEE, West Nile Virus, and the Zika virus. These include the following:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Ø Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours – While mosquitoes are out at all hours of the day, their peak biting times are from dusk to dawn. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, especially if you work or spend a lot of time outdoors.

Ø Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Ø Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Ø Drain Standing Water – Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.

Ø Install or Repair Screens – Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.