

Wareham's risk level for EEE raised to "high"

Yesterday the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that they have elevated the risk level for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in Wareham from moderate to high. In total, the agency found 10 new mosquito samples that tested positive for the virus in Wareham and Carver, another town that is also at "high" risk.


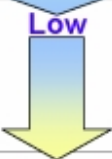


The "high" status means that those who live in a community with the elevated status are asked to severely limit their time outdoors during peak feeding hours, from dusk to dawn.

For Bristol County Raynham and Taunton are the only towns or cities that have an elevated status and are considered at "moderate" risk.

Currently, there is one confirmed human case of EEE in Massachusetts.

EEE virus is a rare cause of brain infections (encephalitis) typically spread to humans via a mosquito bite. Approximately 30% of people with EEE die and many survivors have ongoing neurologic problems.

Key to Color Coding on EEE Risk Map

Risk	What it Means	What You Can Do
Remote 	EEE is not usually found in your area	TO Prepare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know your risk – check regularly at www.mass.gov/dph/wmv Repair screens
Low 	EEE may occur in your area	TO Prevent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mosquito repellent between dusk to dawn Wear long sleeves and long pants from dusk to dawn Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens
Moderate 	EEE occurred in your area within the last year AND/OR there is EEE in mosquitoes in your area now	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mosquito repellent when outdoors, especially between dusk and dawn Avoid outside areas with obvious mosquito activity
High 	Conditions likely to lead to infection of a person with EEE are occurring in your area	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn) Avoid overnight camping, particularly near freshwater swamps where EEE activity is most likely
Critical	Excessive risk from EEE virus exists, a person with EEE infection has been identified in your area	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancel or reschedule outdoor gatherings, organized sporting events, etc. to avoid peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn)