

Town of Rochester
Board of Health
37 Marion Road
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Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Rochester

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Town: Rochester

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that EEE virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from north quadrant of Rochester, Massachusetts. More specifically, 3 bird biting mosquito samples *Culiseta melanura* were found in samples taken from the north quadrant of Rochester.

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- * 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. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.
- * Clothing Can Help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- * Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors. Using a repellent with DEET, permethrin, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. 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 3 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 on the skin.

Mosquito Proof your home.

- * Drain standing water- many 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 usual flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in bird baths frequently.
- * Install or repair screens- some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by

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 provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week to reduce mosquitoes in the 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 veterinarians about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If animals are diagnosed with WNV or EEE owners are required to report to DAR, division of Animal Health by calling 617 626-1795 and Department of Public Health by calling 617 983-6800.
- * More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results from 2014 can be found on Arborvirus Surveillance Information web page at www.mass.gov/dphj/mosquito

While the Rochester Board of Health continues to work closely with the MDPH Plymouth County Mosquito Control has been spraying in those areas where mosquitoes were found. Residents are advised to continue being vigilant and avoiding mosquito bites until the first killing frost that usually arrives during the second or third week in October.

If you have any questions regarding EEE or WNV please don't hesitate contacting the Rochester Board of Health office at 508 763-5421 ext. 201.