



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board
CENTRAL MASS. MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT
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Mosquito Collection in Berlin Tests Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis

On October 11, 2012 the Mass. Dept. of Public Health (MDPH) confirmed that a mosquito collection of predominately bird-biting mosquitoes called *Culiseta melanura* from the October 3 collection in the Sawyer Hill Road area in Berlin (on the Bolton side of town) tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Truck-mounted spraying is not effective this time of year as cooler weather has become predominate in the area – public notification and personal protection measures are the best procedures to lower risk at this time of year.

“EEE is a serious illness, and this confirmation tells us that the virus is still present in bird-biting mosquitoes in this area. Residents must do everything possible to avoid mosquito bites” said CMMCP Executive Director, Timothy Deschamps. “The Mass. Dept of Public Health states that risk from mosquito-borne illness will continue until the first hard frost. A hard frost is when temperatures fall below 28 degrees F for more than 2 hours. This is often referred to as a killing frost. Please use repellents according to label directions if you are outside between dusk and dawn or if you see any mosquito activity. Horses are at risk for EEE as well, and a vaccine is available for horses; please call your veterinarian for more information”.

Personal protection measures have an important role to play in monitoring for EEE and protecting yourself and your 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. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.

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.

Apply Insect Repellent When You Go Outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), 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.

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 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.

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.

Report Dead Birds – Dead crows, blue jays or robins may be a sign that WNV is circulating among the birds and mosquitoes in an area. Call 1-866-MASS WNV to report a dead bird. By reporting dead birds, you can play an important role in monitoring WNV.

More information is available at: www.mass.gov/dph/wnv. Information about WNV and EEE is also available by calling the DPH recorded information line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968), or the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

It's important to note that spraying can reduce but not eliminate the threat of mosquito-borne illness in an area. It's important for individuals to continue to take personal precautions measures against mosquito bites — both before and after any spraying is conducted. For more information please call CMMCP at (508) 393-3055 or log on to our website at www.cmmcp.org.

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