



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board  
**CENTRAL MASS. MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**  
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Residents Urged to Continue to Show Caution against Mosquito-Borne Viruses

We are currently at the peak period for risk of human WNV disease, with positive WNV isolations on the rise in Massachusetts in some areas, as well as in the New England region as a whole. In response, the Mass. Dept. of Public Health has redefined the WNV risk areas statewide; areas that were categorized MDPH WNV risk category 1 REMOTE have been elevated to risk category 2 LOW. Similarly, those areas previously designated as level 2 LOW have been elevated to risk category 3, MODERATE.

3 human cases of WNV have been reported in Mass.; 2 were individuals from other states (Missouri & California) who were visiting Massachusetts, and one Mass. resident was most likely exposed to WNV while traveling in Montana.

Personal protection methods play an important role in reducing your risk from mosquito-borne illnesses:

**Schedule Outdoor Activity to Avoid Peak Mosquito Hours.** The hours from dusk to dawn are peak mosquito biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.

**Clothing Can Help Reduce Tick and Mosquito Bites.** When you are outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and socks whenever possible.

**Apply Insect Repellent When You Go Outdoors.** A wide variety of insect repellent products are available. Please be sure to follow all label directions.

Please be sure to listen for health advisories on television and the radio, as well as in local newspapers. Risk from mosquito-borne diseases will not be reduced completely until freezing temperatures become widespread in the area.

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