



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board  
**CENTRAL MASS. MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**  
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[www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org)

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West Nile Virus Risk in Marlborough is Reduced but Not Eliminated

On July 26, 2007 a bird collected two days earlier tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV), and on August 1 a collection of *Culex* mosquitoes was identified with this virus. In coordination with the Marlborough Mayor's office and the City Health Department, the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project performed applications of sumithrin to the northwestern section of the city where the virus was found. Applications were done according to recommendations from the MDPH Vector Control plan for WNV, and after consultation with the State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board. These applications were done in this area on the evenings of August 1, 5 and 8 from sunset to 11:00pm.

Surveillance from MDPH and CMMCP surveillance sites gathered before and after these applications show an overall reduction in mosquito numbers, and no new virus isolations have been identified thus far.

**While this may indicate that the WNV risk has been reduced to some extent, the RISK LEVEL IS NOT AT ZERO and residents must listen for additional public health announcements, and perform personal protection measures to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes until freezing temperatures become widespread in the area.**

"If additional virus is identified in the city, we will again coordinate with local and state officials to determine the appropriate response" said CMMCP Executive Director, Timothy Deschamps. "Weather, time of year, mosquito species and other factors influence the available interventions. You can reduce mosquito populations around your home by emptying any containers that collect water. Please use repellents according to label directions if you are outside in areas of high numbers of mosquitoes".

Personal protection measures have an important role to play in monitoring for WNV and protecting 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. 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 on the DPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm>. Information about WNV and EEE is also available by calling the DPH recorded information line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7698).

For more information please call CMMCP at (508) 393-3055 or log on to our website at [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org).

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