

Northborough Town Hall

63 Main Street, Northborough, MA 01532

Mass DPH confirms mosquitos tested for West Nile Virus in Northborough-7/18/18

Attachments:

[Mosquito Spray Area Map_7.2018.pdf](#)

Size: 114K Last Updated: 2018/7/18

Town of Northborough

Board of Health

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West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquito Samples from Northborough, MA

DATE: 7/18/18

CONTACT: Casey Mellin, Health Agent

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) recently announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Northborough, Massachusetts. WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. A sample collected in the south quadrant of Northborough on 7/11/18 contained specimens with WNV. Several other communities in the Worcester area also had positive samples. The risk level for WNV in Northborough will now be raised from low to moderate due to this recent activity.

The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state, and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

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, 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), **IR3535** 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. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to 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 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.

The Northborough Health Department will continue to work with MDPH and with the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) in taking steps to reduce the risk of WNV in the Community.

CMMCP will be spraying the area containing the positive result on July 23rd after dusk. Please call the CMMPC at 508-393-3055 with any specific questions regarding the spraying.

Information about WNV and reports of current and historical WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at: www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.

More information is also available at our Health Department's website at:

http://www.town.northborough.ma.us/Pages/NorthboroughMA_BOH/Environmental

Residents have the ability to opt out of spraying in front of their property by visiting

[Link]<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-request-exclusion-from-wide-area-pesticides-application>