



TOWN OF ANDOVER

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ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH **ARBOVIRUS RESPONSE PLAN** **Adopted June 19, 2006**

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to map out a response to potential public health issues related to arboviruses such as West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). These viruses are mosquito borne and therefore may be transmitted to humans. This plan will detail a measured response based on threat to the public health.

The Town contracts annually with the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (District) to handle mosquito control activities. Due to the large area of watershed protection for both the Town and Tewksbury Hospital water supplies, limited adulticiding is conducted; most control efforts are for larvae.

Mosquito trapping, sorting, and testing activities are carried out by both the District and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). These entities determine when and where to place traps, based on their best professional judgment.

Reference Materials

This response plan is based on a compilation of documents, including the MA Surveillance and Response Plan for Mosquito-Borne Disease, the District Vector Management Plan, past experience and practice within the Town of Andover, and common sense in providing a measured response.

Pre-detection Activities

Beginning June 1st of each year, and continuing until a virus is isolated in a bird or mosquito pool, the primary departmental activities shall be that of education.

- Press releases will discuss the danger of arboviruses, how to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas (artificial containers), and how to protect against mosquito bite exposure.
- Information and appropriate links will be placed onto the town website.
- Information will be posted on the cable television message channel.
- This information should be provided to the E-911 Dispatchers for their information.
- Field staff will investigate complaints of potential mosquito breeding areas, and will identify them as they visit any site for any reason. Property owners will be educated on the importance of elimination of the hazard, but failure of the property owner to properly address the matter will result in the issuance of a Notice to Abate a Nuisance.

Dead Bird Collection

It is assumed that for the current year, dead bird reporting, collection, and submittal will mirror previous years. In the past few years, MDPH has stopped accepting birds from a community once there have been 2 positive birds.

- Dead birds shall be reported to MDPH at 1-866-MASS-WNV (627-7968).
- Crows and blue jays reported to meet testing criteria will be triaged and collected by municipal staff.
- Birds deemed acceptable for testing will be packaged in accordance with MDPH guidance and delivered to the collection depot at Tewksbury Hospital.

Response to a Positive Bird

It is assumed that the first sign of WNV will come in the form of a positive bird. When a bird tests positive, the following shall occur:

- The following persons shall be immediately advised:
 - Health Department Staff
 - Board of Health Members
 - Town Manager
 - Superintendent of Schools
 - Director of Community Services
 - Mosquito Control District
 - Fire Chief
 - Police Chief
 - E-911 Dispatch
- A press release will be issued providing information on the positive bird, including the neighborhood it was found in. Public education activities will reaffirm the information provided prior to the identification of case.
- The website will be updated, as will the cable television message channel.
- The District will be consulted to determine if intensified surveillance and/or treatment programs are needed.

Response to a Positive Mosquito Pool

If a mosquito pool tests positive for either WNV or EEE, the following shall occur:

- The following persons shall be immediately advised:
 - Health Department Staff
 - Board of Health Members
 - Town Manager
 - Superintendent of Schools
 - Director of Community Services
 - Mosquito Control District
 - Fire Chief
 - Police Chief
 - E-911 Dispatch

- A press release will be issued providing information on the positive pool, including the neighborhood it was found in. Public education activities will reaffirm the information provided prior to the identification of case.
- The website will be updated, as will the cable television message channel.
- Public Advisories will be distributed to the Conservation Commission, School Department, and Youth Sports programs to be posted at playing fields and appropriate trailheads.

- A Mosquito Control Working Group will be formed to determine a course of action to respond to the threat. Consideration will be given to the time of year the positive pool is identified, the length of remaining season of mosquito activity, and region wide activity. Members of the Working Group will be:
 - Director of Public Health
 - Assistant Health Director
 - Board of Health Chairman or Designee
 - Town Manager
 - Representative of Andover Public Schools
 - Director of Public Works
 - Director of Plant and Facilities
 - Director of Conservation
 - Director of the mosquito control district
 - Representative of MDPH if available
 - 3 residents selected by the Health Director and Board of Health Chairman

- The Mosquito Control Working Group, as advised by MDPH, will be charged with the following activities:
 - Reviewing current public notification techniques.
 - Recommending further public notification techniques.
 - Reviewing current mosquito control techniques.
 - Recommending stepped-up mosquito control techniques.
 - Determining if truck based or aerial adulticiding is warranted.
 - If adulticiding is warranted, determining the area to be treated.
 - If adulticiding is warranted, determining the timetable for such treatment, as well as how the public will be notified (i.e. – Reverse 911).

Response to a Region-wide Threat

If there is a region-wide threat not necessarily found yet in Andover, the Director of Public Health will participate in any regional meeting of health departments to discuss a regional response. If this regional meeting results in a recommendation for action to be taken by Andover, the Mosquito Control Working Group outlined above will be assembled.

In August of each year, the Director of Public Health will review known data on arbovirus activity in the region. If there is an indication of increased activity, the Mosquito Control Working Group outlined above will be assembled to discuss pre-emptive action at recreational fields.

Response to Pre-emptive Treatment of Recreational Fields

If it is determined that pre-emptive treatment is required, the following will occur:

- The following people will be notified:
 - Director of Plant & Facilities
 - Superintendent of Schools
 - Phillips Academy
 - Pike School
 - Greater Lawrence Vo-Tech

- Notice of treatment will be provided as follows:
 - If needed, notices will be sent home with students.
 - Cable television message boards
 - Town and School Websites
 - Posting of site as required
 - Notification of athletic programs using the fields.