



TOWN OF ANDOVER

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EEE Activity Update **April 24, 2020**

In the summer and fall of 2019, Massachusetts experienced a heightened risk for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) transmission. Andover and some surrounding communities found mosquitos that tested positive for the virus, resulting in the restriction of outdoor evening activities at the end of August, continuing through October.

With the fall's freezing temperatures, any mosquitos that might have harbored the virus have died, and the spring brood will be virus free, allowing evening outdoor activities to occur without restriction.

Typically, we do not see the EEE virus in mosquitos in our area until mid to late August, but they have been detected in the past as early as July.

WHAT THE TOWN IS DOING

The Town, through the mosquito control district, will be proactively taking the following actions:

- Testing of mosquitos will begin in June throughout the region. Andover has a trap location that is stationary and sampled weekly, as do other communities in our area.
- If any sample tests positive for the virus, the community will be notified, and the Town's response plan will be activated. This will include the use of guidance provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- Starting in the spring, the mosquito control program will conduct its larvaciding operations. This includes treating catch basins and other stagnant water for mosquito larvae.
- In July or August, the mosquito control district will likely apply a "barrier treatment" to the edge of the town's athletic fields. This treatment is different than the adulticide spray used, and has a longer term residual effect that will help cut down on mosquito activity in those areas. That treatment will likely offer protection into the fall, when temperatures will then be lower, and mosquito activity will be less.

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD DO

- Wear CDC approved insect repellent with DEET, Picardin, IR3535, and/or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus when going into the woods (even during the day), and when outdoors during high mosquito activity times. Remember that we should all be protecting ourselves against ticks as well, and the insect repellent will do double duty.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when out in these areas, and always end the day with a tick check of your body.
- Check your yards for places where water collects, and empty them. Tires, bird baths, 5 gallon buckets, and sandbox toys are examples. Check your gutters and roof drains as well.
- Even if you don't plan to open a swimming pool this year, treat it with chlorine periodically.
- Residents may contact the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control District at 978-352-2800 to have areas of standing water inspected for mosquito breeding, or visit www.nemassmosquito.org for more information (Note that Andover residents may not make spray requests).
- Get outdoors and enjoy the great New England spring and summer.