



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL - 10 CENTRAL STREET

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The Department of Public Health notified the Town Wednesday afternoon, 9/25/19, of a positive EEE mosquito in our most recent testing. The mosquito, *Culiseta melanura*, was found in one of the monitoring traps the Town has been utilizing.

Prior to receiving this new result, the Board of Health held a meeting Tuesday evening to discuss management of ongoing mosquito related concerns. After speaking with the Mosquito Control District earlier in the day, reviewing the ongoing forecast of warm weather and discussion of the risks/seriousness of EEE, the Board voted to spray the Town Wednesday 9/25/19. Upon further discussion they also voted to suspend all outdoor evening activities after 6 pm.

The spraying is aimed at killing adult mosquitoes. The active ingredient degrades within 30 minutes of being applied and is not harmful to most other wildlife. Unfortunately this is not a permanent solution. Until we have two nights of a killing frost we will have mosquitoes. We will continue to work with the Department of Public Health and Mosquito Control to assure that we manage the mosquito population in a way that is safe for the Residents of the Town. We may need to spray again before the end of the season if the warm weather continues. As the days get shorter and if the weather stays warm we will need to move the curfew up.

The following is a review of previous educational information:

What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis?

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus. The virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

What are the symptoms of EEE?

The first symptoms of EEE are fever (often 103° to 106°F), stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy. These symptoms show up three to ten days after a bite from an infected mosquito. Inflammation and swelling of the brain, called encephalitis, is the most dangerous and frequent serious complication. The disease gets worse quickly and some patients may go into a coma within a week. If your child exhibits any of these symptoms contact their MD.

What can you do to protect yourself from EEE?

Since the virus that causes EEE is spread by mosquitoes, here are some things you can do to reduce your chances of being bitten:

- ✓ When you are outdoors, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and socks. This may be difficult to do when the weather is hot, but it will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- ✓ If you are outdoors at dusk (now starting at 6pm) apply repellent. **** The risk remains until the first hard frost.

Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** (3-[N-butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid) or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-menthane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions given 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.

What can you do at home?

- ✓ Keep mosquitoes out of your house by repairing any holes in your screens and making sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- ✓ Remove areas of standing water around your home.

Here are some suggestions:

- ✓ Look around outside your house for containers and other things that might collect water and turn them over, regularly empty them, or dispose of them.
- ✓ Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors so that water can drain out.
- ✓ Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
- ✓ Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- ✓ Change the water in birdbaths every few days; aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.
- ✓ Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.
- ✓ Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.

If you have any concerns or want more information Please check the website:

www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito

www.nemassmosquito.org

