

TOWN OF NATICK



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Mosquitoes in Natick Test Positive for West Nile Virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that West Nile Virus (WNV) was detected in mosquito sample(s) collected in the Town of Natick on August 30th. WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of fifty (50) are at higher risk for severe infection. **Note: To date, no human cases of West Nile Virus have been detected in Middlesex County; the first human case in 2017 was detected in a Bristol County resident on September 8th.**

The mosquito species identified were Culex Pipiens, which are the primary vectors of West Nile Virus. The virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While most mosquito species develop in wetlands, Culex mosquitoes prefer to lay their eggs in catchbasins, clogged rain gutters, unused tires, buckets, bird baths and other water holding containers.

Town of Natick's Response to West Nile Virus

The Town of Natick has contracted services with Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP). The program includes surveillance, identifying populations and species, mosquito trapping, larvicide treatment in the spring and catchbasin treatments during the summer, as well as high density area roadside ground spraying for adult mosquito control. The positive sample(s) were collected in the Union Street vicinity of the MetroWest/Leonard Morse Hospital. The catchbasin treatment using the larvicide ALTOSID XR Briquettes has been ongoing since early summer; added attention will be given to the area noted above. On Thursday evening, September 7, the entire quadrant where the positive sample(s) were collected was ground sprayed by an Ultra-Low Volume mobile unit applying an adulticide to reduce the threat.

How to Prevent Mosquito Breeding in Your Yard

Residents have an important role to play in reducing the risk of WNV and protecting themselves and their loved ones by taking a few, common-sense precautions. To prevent a yard from becoming a source for Culex mosquitoes and other potentially invasive mosquito species, homeowners should make a thorough inspection of their property and remove, empty, cover or treat water-holding containers. During the summer months, mosquito larvae can complete their development in water within a week.

- Drain all standing water in yard
- Provide screen or solid covers for rain barrels
- Change water in birdbaths weekly
- Check and empty containers where mosquitoes can lay eggs in including neglected swimming pools, loose fitting pool covers or tarps, unscreened rain barrels, rimless tires, unused flower pots, plastic toys
- Check, and clean debris if necessary, all rain gutters so rain water thoroughly drains
- Change water in wading pools weekly
- Rubbish Barrels, wheelbarrows and small boats should be covered or stored upside down
- Keep grass cut short and shrubs trimmed
- Install or repair screens; check for tightly fitted screens on all windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out
- Protect pets and horses from mosquito bites

What You Should do to Prevent Mosquito Bites

Beware of Peak Hours – The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider re-scheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.

Protective 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. Cover up arms and legs of children playing outdoors. Baby carriages and playpens should be covered with mosquito netting.

Apply Insect Repellent When You Go Outdoors – Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3032), 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.

Over the next few weeks the Natick Board of Health will continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) to monitor and determine any further prevention methods.

For further information on WNV or EEE, log onto the Massachusetts Department of Public Health web site at: www.mass.gov/dph/wnv.

If residents have any questions about mosquitoes or how to control them, the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project can be reached at: www.cmmcp.org.

Choosing and using repellents safely information:

<http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>

<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent.html>

For MDPH 2017 Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/arbovirus-response-plan.html>

MDPH Mosquito-borne Diseases:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/providers/public-health-cdc-arbovirus-info.html>

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