

Aerial Spraying for Mosquitoes to Start Tonight - Tuesday, September 10th and to continue into next week

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) are urging residents throughout the Commonwealth to **continue to take personal precautions to prevent mosquito bites** as they announced aerial spraying for mosquitoes in areas of the state at critical and high risk for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus. Click here for up to date information on EEE: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts>

MDAR is scheduled to begin aerial spraying this evening (**Tuesday, September 10th**) and continue into next week in parts of Middlesex, Worcester, and Norfolk counties. While aerial spraying is weather and equipment dependent, above-average evening temperatures this week are likely to permit the application.

Residents are encouraged to visit the DPH website at <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/MidWorNorSept2019.htm> on spraying in their communities. <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/>

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Avoid Mosquito Bites Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) 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.

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 in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently. Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to

reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

Bee owners "We monitor hives both before and after sprays. We had two cases where there was some suspicion of pesticide-caused mortality. We came out, we took a look. We found some reason to believe that it was likely due to predatory mites and viruses, and to confirm that, samples were sent to our analysis labs," says Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources commissioner John Lebeaux. "We've had no other cases of suspected issues." When conducting aerial spray operations, the state uses a pesticide called Anvil 10+10 that's specifically formulated to target flying mosquitoes and is short-lived — it has a half-life of one day and degrades even faster in sunlight. Lebeaux doesn't rule out the possibility that this pesticide could harm bees or other insects, but he says there's no evidence that it has. The state used Anvil 10+10 in previous aerial spray campaigns and didn't observe any negative impacts. "We've done a great deal of direct communication with beekeepers and beekeeper associations both on a statewide and countrywide basis," he says. [Put wet sheets over the hives.](#)

**For more information please contact the Board of Health Office, directly at 978-897-4592 or via email health@stow-ma.gov

Information above obtained from the following sources:

<https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases>

<https://www.wbur.org/earthwhile/2019/08/28/as-mass-sprays-for-eee-beekeepers-worry-about-fragile-bees>