

**1 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Arbovirus Surveillance Program Report
Report Date: August 19, 2013**

Key Public Risk Communication Messages for This Week:

The weather this week is forecast to be much warmer and more humid than last week, conditions which are generally favorable for mosquitoes and the viruses they carry. This is likely to generally increase risk of mosquito-borne illness. As early season sports activities begin, remind residents that mosquitoes are attracted to both body heat and carbon dioxide and both are produced in higher amounts during physical activity. Encourage participants to use mosquito repellent to help reduce their exposure to mosquito bites.

West Nile Virus

People, especially those over 50 and/or immuno compromised, should be strongly encouraged to use repellent and cover up to reduce mosquito bites.

WNV infected mosquitoes have been found in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties. These geographically widespread findings indicate that virus is circulating throughout the Commonwealth and is not confined to municipalities where infected mosquitoes have been found. Residents are also encouraged to practice source reduction:

- Drain buckets, barrels, tarps, and wheel barrows to avoid water accumulation
- Change the water twice each week in birdbaths and outdoor pet water dishes
- Keep rain gutters clean of debris
- Check children's outdoor toys for water accumulation

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

The identification of EEE infected mammal-biting mosquitoes in Amherst and the deaths of two horses in Belchertown from EEE indicate that area as having an elevated risk from EEE. There have also been scattered findings of EEE in mosquitoes from southeastern Massachusetts.

Residents in ALL areas that have seen EEE activity over the last several years should be encouraged to practice good personal preventive behaviors to avoid mosquito bites. These areas include parts of Essex county, all of Bristol and Plymouth counties, the area around Orange and Athol, the area around Belchertown and Amherst, and Pittsfield. 2