

# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

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## BOARD OF HEALTH

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed Mosquitoes from Bridgewater

DATE: September 1, 2011

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TOWN: Bridgewater

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### UPDATE: Ongoing Land Spraying continues through Bridgewater

*There will be no Aerial Spraying over the Town of Bridgewater*

AS of 8/23/2011 Mass Dept of Public Health has raised the risk for EEE exposure from moderate to high due to the number of EEE positive mosquito samples being tested throughout the area. Ongoing testing and spraying will continue only on parks and fields through the remainder of the summer.

#### UPDATE:

During a Board of Health meeting on 8/25/2011 it was discussed and voted on the following due to ongoing test results and high risk.

Please be aware all Parks & Fields in Bridgewater are closed at 6:00p.m. As of 9/6/2011 until the first frost per Order of Bridgewater Board of Health.

While the Board of Health continues to work closely with the MDPH and other agencies, locally we are actively undertaking all necessary steps to insure monitoring and reporting of any further testing. Please feel free to contact Board of Health or Plymouth County Mosquito Control at [www.plymouthmosquito.org](http://www.plymouthmosquito.org) for information.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that EEE virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Bridgewater, Massachusetts. In 2011, Bridgewater has had continued EEE virus positive mosquito samples identified. Some of the mosquitoes identified are that of the mammal biting breeds. EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

**By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:**

#### **Avoid Mosquito Bites**

- **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. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.

- **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.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **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.

#### **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 either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Information about EEE and reports of EEE virus activity in Massachusetts during 2011 can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>. Recorded information about EEE is also available by calling the MDPH Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).



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