



Office of
Board of Health

Town of Marshfield

Board of Health
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Human Case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Confirmed in Marshfield

DATE: September 24 2012
Board of Health
TOWN: Marshfield

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today a confirmed human case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in Marshfield. The case occurred in a child under the age of 18. The Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health has now raised the Risk Level in Marshfield to Critical.

EEE virus has caused 17 human infections in Massachusetts with at least seven deaths since 2004. There were two human cases identified in 2011 (one in an out of state resident who was likely exposed in MA). This is the second human case identified in Marshfield this year, and there have been 5 other human EEE cases identified in Massachusetts this year.

EEE is a rare but very 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.

The Marshfield Board of Health continues with its previously issued Order on the restriction of all public outdoor group activities (sports, recreational, and gatherings) between the hours of dusk and dawn, starting at 6:15 p.m. until further notice (first hard frost)

It is essential that all residents take protective measures against mosquito borne disease by taking the following precautions:

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. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. 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** – Many 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 can come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

The Marshfield Board of Health continues to work closely with the MDPH, Plymouth County Mosquito Control and local groups/agencies for the remainder of this season, with discussions being planned for next season with these groups. Plymouth County Mosquito Control had conducted Town wide spraying during the early morning hours of September 13, 2012. Additional spraying at this time of year is limited due to cooler temperatures. We have distributed fact sheets on Use of Mosquito Repellents and Prevention of Mosquito borne disease to Marshfield Schools, Recreation Dept, and groups involved with outdoor activities/sports.

Information about EEE, fact sheets and reports of current and historical EEE virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wmv>.