



City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Aerial Spraying in New Bedford CANCELLED for Tonight **Spraying Scheduled to Begin Thursday August 5th After Dusk, Weather Permitting**

New Bedford, Massachusetts — The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced that tonight's aerial spraying against mosquitoes has been **CANCELLED** due to poor weather conditions.

Aerial spraying is scheduled to take place on the evening of Thursday, August 5th (weather permitting) in selected areas of southeastern Massachusetts, including most of New Bedford between the hours of 8:00pm and 3:00am. **All New Bedford residents are asked to remain indoors during spraying hours to reduce/eliminate exposure risk to the insecticides. As an additional precaution, all New Bedford parks and beaches will be closed at 7:30pm and all recreational activities after 7:30pm will be cancelled.**

The following precautions are recommended during aerial spraying:

- Keep windows closed and fans off. Shut off air conditioners unless they have a setting for re-circulating indoor air.
- Rinse any homegrown fruits and vegetables with water.
- Keep pets, livestock and other domestic animals indoors during spraying to minimize their risk of exposure.
- If skin or clothes or other items are exposed to the sprayed pesticide, wash with soap and water. If the spray gets in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water or eye drops, and call your doctor.
- Because Anvil breaks down quickly in sunlight and water, and considering dilution factors, no special precaution or waiting periods are recommended for outdoor swimming pools or beaches.

State public health officials, working in conjunction with several other agencies and local public health partners, made the decision to conduct spraying following continued positive tests for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in mosquito pool samples from Plymouth and Bristol Counties, and have characterized the risk of EEE infection as a serious public health concern at this time.

Spraying of the pesticide will take place after dusk on August 5th in the communities of Acushnet, Berkley, Bridgewater, Carver, Duxbury, Dartmouth, East Bridgewater, Easton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, New Bedford, Norton, Pembroke, Plympton, Plymouth, Raynham, Rochester, Taunton, Wareham and West Bridgewater. These areas were chosen based on factors including mosquito sample surveillance findings, environmental observations and weather conditions among others.

The specific pesticide being used in the aerial spraying, the same product already used in ground spraying throughout these communities, is very low in concentration and has been proven safe for humans at these levels.

If spraying is delayed due to poor weather conditions, it will be rescheduled later in the week, and public notification processes will begin to inform affected communities. Area residents may also call the Massachusetts Emergency Management telephone information resource line by dialing 211. The resource line is staffed by The United Way. Operators fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese are available to assist callers.

More information on EEE and the use of aerial spraying is available at www.mass.gov/dph and www.newbedford-ma.gov

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