



City of New Bedford
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City of New Bedford
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For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EEE Detected in Mosquitoes Found in New Bedford's North End, Targeted Ground Spraying Planned in New Bedford

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) notified the New Bedford Health Department today of the finding of a mosquito sample testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the northwest quadrant of New Bedford. The mosquito is of the *Culiseta melanura* species and it is largely a bird-biting species. This is the second positive EEE mosquito finding in Bristol County this week, as MDPH reported a positive sample in Freetown yesterday.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will conduct mosquito spraying at several targeted areas in New Bedford early on Thursday, August 7, 2014. This round of spraying will target the far north end of New Bedford, around Sassaquin Avenue and Industrial Park. Spraying will take place between 2:00 am and sunrise on Thursday morning, weather permitting. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows this evening prior to the spraying.

In response to the positive EEE mosquito finding in Freetown, the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project adjusted their spraying schedule and conducted mosquito spraying early this morning, Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at approximately 2:00 A.M. in the following public parks and recreational areas: Fort Taber, Brooklawn Park, Buttonwood Park, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, the Poor Farm Area, Clasky Park, Ashley Park, Ben Rose Field.

MA Department of Health Fact Sheets on EEE:

English: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/eee.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/eee-sp.pdf>

Portuguese: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/eee-pt.pdf>

Mosquito Control and Monitoring

The [Bristol County Mosquito Control Project](#) routinely conducts surveillance in our area to track the potential for EEE and WNV carrying mosquitoes. Mosquito traps are in place to collect additional pools of mosquitoes and monitoring of mosquito populations is ongoing to assess the effectiveness of spraying efforts.

Residents may request a ground spray by calling the Bristol County Mosquito Control project at (508) 823-5253, between 8:00am - 2:00pm (June - September), or contacting them by E-mail at RequestBristolMCP@comcast.net.

Precautionary Measures

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** – While mosquitoes are out at all hours of the day, their peak biting times are from dusk to dawn. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, especially if you work or spend a lot of time outdoors.
- **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.

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