

2014 Mosquito Season Findings

October 6, 2014: Weekly testing indicated NO findings of EEE or WNV in mosquito samples taken in Topsfield last week.

- MDPH (MA Dept of Public Health) will conclude routine mosquito collections for the season next week.
- MDPH-assigned Risk Levels for all areas of northeastern MA remain Remote or Low.
- All individuals are encouraged to continue routine precautions at dusk and dawn
- Use repellent according to manufacturer's recommendation
- Use clothing to reduce exposed skin.

September 29, 2014: Weekly testing indicated NO findings of EEE or WNV in mosquito samples taken in Topsfield last week. -In spite of the positive finding of EEEV in a mosquito 2 weeks ago, MDPH Arbovirus Risk Levels for all of Northeastern MA remain at Remote or Low.

- Temperatures last weekend were unseasonably warm. We will experience more seasonable temperatures in the coming days, resulting in cool nights. Too cool for mosquitos to be active in large numbers. Those mosquitos flying are older and therefore more likely to have acquired EEEV or WNV.
- Continue to use repellants according to manufacturers' recommendations.
- Continue to wear loose clothing over as much exposed skin as possible.
- Continue to discard collected water.
- Continue these precautions until the first hard frost.

September 23, 2014 Weekly testing indicated a positive finding of EEE in a mosquito sample taken in Topsfield last week.

The Health Agent, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and the Topsfield Board of Health has made the decision not to conduct public mosquito spraying in Topsfield for the following reasons:

1. The mosquito that tested positive is the *Culiseta melanura*, a bird biting species.

2. The physical properties of the Adulticide used in spraying are most effective 30 minutes

after sunset or 30 minutes before sunrise, when temperatures are above 55°F and when wind velocity is between 3 mph and 15 mph. Meteorological conditions in Topsfield have precluded overnight spraying because:

Overnight temperatures have been below 55°F

Wind velocities have been greater than is optimal for dispersal

There has been overnight rain.

Because this is the first finding of EEE in a bird biting mosquito in Essex County late in the season, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is not raising the risk level for Topsfield from the "Remote" level.

The Topsfield Health Agent urges residents to take necessary precautions including the use of Mosquito Repellent according to manufacturer's directions and removing any standing water.

September 15, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield this past week.

Cool nights have returned. Mosquito activity associated with WNV is concentrated at dawn and dusk. Use repellent according to manufacturer's recommendations. Cover otherwise exposed skin.

All communities in Northeastern MA remain at the Remote to Low risk levels.

September 8, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield this past week.

-Northeast MA communities remain in the Remote to Low Risk Categories for EEEV and WNV. No mosquito pools have tested positive. No animal or human cases have been reported.

-With overnight temperatures cooling, mosquito activity is concentrated during the pre-dawn and early evening hours for those mosquito species known to be carriers of EEEV or WNV. While most mosquito populations are decreasing, the older mosquitos are more likely to be carrying EEV or WNV. Therefore, it is increasingly important to be aware that outdoor activity during the pre-dawn and early evening hours necessitates using mosquito repellent and using clothing to reduce exposed skin.

-Remember to follow manufacturers' recommendations when using insect repellent.

-Continue to be on the lookout for unused swimming pools and other stagnant, organically rich collections of water. Contact your local Board of Health if you observe potential mosquito breeding areas.

August 18, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield this past week.

Risk Levels are low for WNV and EEE.

Personal vigilance remains paramount:

-Choose a repellent and follow manufacturer's instructions

- Drain stagnant water; report unused swimming pools to the Topsfield Board of Health.

August 11, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield this past week.

Risk Levels remain low for WNV and remote-low for EEE.

Personal vigilance remains paramount:

-Choose a repellent and follow manufacturer's instructions

- Drain stagnant water; report unused swimming pools to the Topsfield Board of Health.

August 6, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield this past week.

-However, geographically widespread positive findings throughout Massachusetts indicate presence of mosquitoes carrying these arboviruses

-Residents are strongly urged to use personal protection and reduction of mosquito breeding habitats

-Personal protection includes use of a repellent (There are various brands containing DEET and many more without DEET. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

-Reduction of mosquito breeding habitats includes reporting stagnant swimming pools and dumping smaller containers of stagnant water.

July 15, 2014: There were NO findings of EEE or WNV in Mosquitoes trapped in Topsfield t his past week. Residents are urged to remove standing water where mosquitoes can breed and use Mosquito Repellent according to manufacturer directions. SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PREVENTING MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESS.