



**Town of Rochester
Board of Health**

37 Marion Road, Rochester MA 02770
Phone: 508-763-5421 Fax: 508-763-537

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE ROCHESTER
BOARD OF HEALTH**

On July 30, 2019 the Board of Health was notified by the Department of Public Health that Rochester had 3 positive mosquito samples. A press release was then forwarded to the area media outlets about the risks and the spraying schedule. Plymouth County Mosquito Control conducted a town wide ground spraying early morning on Friday August 2, 2019.

On Friday August 2, 2019, the Department of Public Health notified the Board of Health that the threat of EEE had been raised to HIGH RISK. High risk means that conditions in the area are likely to lead to an infection of a person with EEE.

In response to this notice effective immediately all parks, ballfields, beaches, and town run events shall be closed one half hour before dusk to dawn until further notice.

For more information regarding EEE please log onto the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.

For mosquito spraying information please log onto plymouthmosquito.org, or the town website at www.townofrochestermass.com

Rochester Board of Health
Dale Barrows, Chairman
David Souza
Glenn Lawrence

ROCHESTER BOARD OF HEALTH

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Rochester

DATE: July 30, 2019
TOWN: Rochester

CONTACT: Karen Walega, MPH, CHO, RS, Health Director
TELEPHONE: 508-763-5421

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that EEE virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Rochester, Massachusetts. In 2017, 5,496 mosquito samples were tested for EEE virus, and one positive sample was identified in Massachusetts. Rochester, has had 3 EEE virus positive mosquito samples identified in 2019. More specifically, a bird biting mosquito *Culiseta Melanura*, and *C. perturbans* a Human biting Mosquito were found in the northwest quadrant of the Town.

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. 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. 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** – 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 like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

While Rochester Board of Health continues to work closely with the MDPH and other agencies, locally **Plymouth County Mosquito Control will be doing a Town wide spraying on Friday, August 2, 2019 between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Residents are asked to keep their windows closed during the evening.**

Information about EEE and reports of current and historical EEE virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.



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Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Rochester

DATE: August 2, 2019
TOWN: Rochester

CONTACT: Karen A. Walega, MPH, CHO, RS
TELEPHONE: 508-763-5421

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that EEE virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Marion Massachusetts. Marion has had 9 EEE virus positive mosquito samples identified today. Since Rochester is a bordering town, Rochester has been changed to a HIGH RISK LEVEL for EEE. High risk level means that conditions in our area are likely to lead to an infection of a person with EEE.

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- **Additional Information** can be obtained at <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>

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The Health Director for the Marion-Rochester Health District continues to work closely with the MDPH and other agencies.

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