



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Town of Westwood

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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**August 3, 2020**

## **Commonwealth Announces First Human Case of EEE this Summer**

**On August 2, 2020 the MA Dept. of Health and Human Services announced the first known human case of EEE infection in MA has been diagnosed. The EEE infected person resides in Middleborough, in Plymouth County, and is reported to be a boy under the age of 18.**

**The Westwood Board of Health has been monitoring surveillance reports provided by MA DPH for evidence of EEE in the Commonwealth. We will continue to monitor reports for the presence of infected mosquitos in Norfolk County and will alert the Town accordingly. The surveillance reports last summer showed a steady progression of infected mosquitos encroaching on Westwood from the West and the South. The BOH is urging residents to prepare now for the likelihood infected mosquitos will be in our area in the coming weeks.**

**The threat of EEE is especially concerning for our younger and older residents. Please read the following advisory that outlines precautions that you should take to reduce the risk of exposure to yourself and your family. It is also important to reduce or eliminate mosquito harborage around your home.**

**The greatest risk of contracting EEE and is heightened from late July through September. Mosquitoes can carry disease until the first hard frost.**

**EEE is a rare disease with serious life threatening symptoms. Symptoms are high fever, stiff neck, headache and lack of energy followed by inflammation and swelling of the brain (encephalitis). There is no treatment, few people recover from the illness and 50% do not survive.**

**To avoid mosquitoes please consider the following:**

- Limit your time outdoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn) or if you must remain outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.**
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 (3-[N-butyl-N-Acetyl]-**

aminopropionic acid) or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-menthane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label.

**NOTE:** 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.

- Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- Remove areas of standing water around your home. Here are some suggestions:
  - Look around outside your house for containers and other things that might collect water and turn them over, regularly empty them, or dispose of them.
  - Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors so that water can drain out.
  - Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
  - Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
  - Change the water in birdbaths every few days; aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.
  - Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.
  - Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.

Adult mosquito control is available by request only. If you would like to request mosquito control please visit the District's website at [www.norfolkcountymosquito.org](http://www.norfolkcountymosquito.org) or call (781) 762-3681. If you have general questions about mosquitoes in our area or would like to report standing water please call 781-320-1026.

To view the EEE Risk Map please visit; [WWW.Mosquitoresults.com](http://WWW.Mosquitoresults.com)