



MICHIGAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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Press Release

Mosquito-Transmitted Disease Activity in Michigan

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Mosquitoes have a great impact on our quality of life as we try to enjoy the great outdoors, but they also harbor disease organisms and pass them on to humans and other animals. Examples of this are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV), mosquito-borne viruses that can be found in Michigan. In nature, both EEE and WNV are maintained in bird populations. Mosquito species that bite both birds and mammals can acquire the virus from birds while taking blood and can then transmit it to humans. EEE has a very high human mortality rate, but fortunately is very rare. West Nile Virus, on the other hand, has been more common in Michigan in the past 10 years, but few infected people have developed severe illness.

On August 20, the Michigan Department of Community Health issued a press release confirming two EEE human cases (Kalamazoo County) with an additional EEE human case announced on August 23 (Barry County). Two probable human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have also been reported from Washtenaw and Wayne counties, with confirmatory testing pending on these two cases. In addition, MDCH has confirmed 18 horse cases of EEE, all occurring in the Southwest quadrant of Michigan, with 56 additional suspect horse cases. Horse infections were found in Barry, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Kalamazoo, and Saint Joseph Counties. Testing has also confirmed one mosquito sample to be positive with West Nile Virus (WNV) from the Lansing area. Current information can be found at: <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>.

EEE Press Release

The Michigan Mosquito Control Association would like to remind Michigan homeowners that the most effective way to reduce the risk of acquiring EEE, WNV, or other mosquito-transmitted diseases, is to reduce exposure to biting mosquitoes. Some ideas that will help prevent these bites would be to wear long sleeved shirts and long pants, try not to go outdoors during hours of peak mosquito activity (dusk and dawn), keep all window and door screens in good repair, and wear mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, making sure to read repellent labels before use.

Since mosquitoes use shallow, still water for three of their life stages, dumping water from containers like pails, bird baths and children's toys, and properly maintaining or closing and covering swimming pools will help reduce adult mosquito activity in your neighborhoods.

For further information on Michigan mosquitoes and diseases, visit the MMCA website at:

<http://www.mimosq.org/mosquitoes.htm>, or for more information on mosquito-transmitted diseases check the

Centers for Disease Control website at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/list_mosquitoborne.htm.

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