



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford  
Office of the Mayor  
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup Pio  
(508) 979-1410  
[etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov)

Date: September 7, 2016  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### ***West Nile Virus Detected in Mosquito Sample, Two Rounds of Targeted Ground Spraying Planned***

**New Bedford, Massachusetts**-The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has notified the New Bedford Health Department of the finding of West Nile Virus in a mosquito sample obtained from the Washburn Street area of New Bedford. The mosquito is of the *Culex pipiens restuans* complex species and is mainly bird-biting. In response to these findings, the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will conduct two rounds of targeted ground sprayings.

The first round of targeted ground spraying will occur in the early morning of Friday, September 9, 2016. This round of spraying will target areas including Buttonwood Park, Brooklawn Park, Fort Tabor, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, Clasky Park, Ashley Park, the Poor Farm area, Custom House Square and Washburn Street area. Spraying will take place between 2:00 am and sunrise on Friday morning, weather permitting. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows this evening prior to the spraying.

The second round of targeted ground spraying will occur on the morning of Monday, September 12, 2016 in the Washburn area, weather permitting. (If weather presents a conflict, this round of spraying will occur on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.) Spraying will take place between 2:00 am and sunrise, weather permitting. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows this evening prior to the spraying.

There have been no positive pools for EEE found in New Bedford this season. Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will continue trapping mosquitoes as part of its monitoring program for another two weeks. In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will continue its monitoring program until mid-October.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control Program will complete its spraying program for the season early next week. With cooler overnight temperatures, mosquito surveillance is less effective and the small numbers of mosquitoes trapped are not indicative of actual risk. While spraying is no longer an effective tool in reducing the threat under current temperature conditions, other

precautionary measures remain effective.

Though populations are declining as we move away from mosquito season and into colder weather, it remains important to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Residents are urged to apply mosquito repellent and use clothing to reduce exposed skin.

The risk of mosquito-borne illness typically extends until an area has experienced a hard frost. A hard, or killing frost is defined meteorologically as two consecutive hours of temperatures below 28 degrees Fahrenheit. This will occur at different times for different communities, and there may even be variation within communities based on local geography. Although mosquitoes are not killed until a hard frost occurs, they are extremely unlikely to be active when temperatures fall below 50 degrees in the evening. These conditions are expected in the days and weeks ahead throughout the region, as well as a significant reduction in outdoor activity with the end of the summer season.

Like EEE and West Nile, the New Bedford Health Department works closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to track other emerging mosquito-borne diseases such as the Zika virus. While Zika-carrying mosquitoes have not been identified in the New Bedford area, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports that the likelihood of becoming infected with Zika virus from a mosquito bite in Massachusetts is very low, residents are urged to take the general precautionary measures to prevent mosquito bites. In addition, travelers to areas where the Zika virus has been detected in mosquitoes or humans should take extra precaution to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes during their trip. This includes both females and males who travel to areas where the Zika virus is occurring. If you or your partner is planning on traveling, you should check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for information about where Zika virus is occurring:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.

**The same precautionary measures are advised for EEE, WNV, and the Zika virus. These include the following:**

### **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.

###

*Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/CityofNewBedford](http://www.facebook.com/CityofNewBedford) and  
Twitter [www.twitter.com/NewBedford\\_MA](http://www.twitter.com/NewBedford_MA)!*