



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford  
Office of the Mayor  
Contact: Holly Huntoon  
(508) 989-4407 cell  
[Holly.Huntoon@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Holly.Huntoon@newbedford-ma.gov)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Weekly Targeted Ground Spraying for Mosquitoes to Begin June 15, Continued Through September

*Sprays between 2 a.m. and sunrise will target City's parks, event spaces*

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** – The New Bedford Health Department, working closely with the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is again conducting its annual monitoring program to track the potential threat from mosquitoes that could be carrying Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) or West Nile virus (WNV).

Under the program, crews place traps to collect pools of mosquitoes and mosquito populations are monitored throughout the summer months.

As part of the tracking program, the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will again target specific areas for spraying, including public parks and locations that host large public events.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control Project's first targeted ground spraying for mosquitoes will take place very early in the morning of **Thursday, June 15, and continue each Thursday through late September**. In the event of rain or inclement weather, the spraying will occur early **Friday** mornings. Sprayings will occur between 2 a.m. and sunrise.

The spraying will target areas including Buttonwood Park, Brooklawn Park, Fort Taber, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, Clasky Common Park, Ashley Park, the Wing's Court

and Custom House Square areas, and the downtown area. Residents near targeted areas may wish to close their windows in the evenings prior to sprayings.

Precautionary measures are advised to prevent EEE and WNV.

Precautionary measures 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 the 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 2 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 3 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 tight-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.