BOARD OF HEALTH

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West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis Precautions

Although, to date, mosquitoes trapped by Plymouth County Mosquito Control (PCMC) in Brockton, have not tested positive for either West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis(EEE) however, that does not mean that they do not exist in Brockton.

Between the last week in August until the first heavy frost in late October or early November positive mosquitoes for WNV and EEE could appear any day, so precautions should be taken when outdoors.

Our neighboring communities, both Abington and Easton have had mosquito pools test positive for WNV.

The following precautions should be taken by all residents:

Dusk-avoid outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most actively feeding and flying.

Dawn-Avoid the outdoors when "the light is changing in the sky."

DEET-Use personal repellents containing this effectively proven ingredient.

Dress- Cover exposed skin to block mosquitoes' access to your body. (weather permitting, wear long sleeves and long pants when outdoors during peak mosquito hours-from dusk to dawn-and light colored, loose- fitting clothing.

Drain-Dump standing water from pails, flower-pot saucers, old tires, toys and other artificial containers.

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools-especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

Anyone wanting their property sprayed should call the PCMC Office at 781-585-5450, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.