

**West Nile Virus
Public Service Announcement**

What you need to Know about West Nile Virus:

This year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes across the state. The risk for West Nile will continue until the first hard frost, which means when temperatures fall below 28 degrees for several hours. Parents have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their family from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

Being outside for even a short amount of time can be long enough to get a mosquito bite, so weather permitting, wear long sleeves and long pants when you are outdoors during peak mosquito hours, from dusk to dawn. Also, make sure to use mosquito repellent any time you are outdoors, such as waiting for the bus, walking to school or during outdoor sports practices. Be sure to follow directions on the label. And use mosquito netting on baby carriages or playpens when your baby is outdoors.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water so clear any standing water from around your home. Turn over unused wading pools or flower pots and change the water in birdbaths and pet bowls frequently. Mosquitoes don't know property lines, so encourage your neighbors to do the same. Install screens in doors and windows and repair holes in existing screens.

This is a message from Lakeville Board of Health. For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/dph.



Information to Share with Parents about Protecting Kids from Mosquito-Borne Illness

Information for Residents of Communities at HIGH RISK for EEE

This year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of West Nile Virus and EEE positive mosquitoes across the Commonwealth. Mosquitoes may continue to be active well into the fall and risk for mosquito-borne illness will continue until the first hard frost in your area. Hard frosts occur when temperatures fall below 28 degrees for several hours. Parents have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their family from illnesses caused by mosquitoes, so the Department of Public Health is urging residents who live in areas of elevated risk to take personal protective measures to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

- Wear mosquito repellent when outdoors – including at sports practices
- Weather permitting, wear long sleeves and long pants when outdoors during peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn)
- Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens outdoors
- Repair window and door screens in your home
- Dump standing water twice weekly
- Arrange neighborhood cleanups to get rid of mosquito breeding sites
- Be aware of stagnant water on private property (e.g. unused swimming pools)- these should be reported to your local Board of Health.

For more information visit the Department's website at www.mass.gov/dph.



Important Information for Parents about Protecting Your Kids from Mosquito-Borne Illness

Information for Residents of Communities at HIGH RISK for EEE

The Department of Public Health is urging residents who live in areas of elevated risk to take personal protective measures to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

- Children are at greater risk from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) than from West Nile virus (WNV).
- Risk for mosquito-borne illness will continue until the first hard frost in your area. Hard frosts occur when temperatures fall below 28 degrees for several hours.
- Use mosquito repellent any time you are outdoors, such as waiting for the bus, walking to school or during outdoor sports practices. Even being out a short time can be long enough to get a mosquito bite. Make sure to follow directions on the label. DEET products should *not* be used on infants under two months of age and should be used only in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.
- Be aware of mosquitoes around you. If mosquitoes are biting you, reapply repellent, or think about going inside.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes. Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during evening and early morning.
- Use mosquito netting on baby carriages or playpens when your baby is outdoors.
- When weather permits, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors.
- Make sure screens are repaired and are tightly attached to doors and windows.
- Remove standing water from places like ditches, gutters, old tires, wheel barrows, and wading pools. Mosquitoes can begin to grow in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days, so don't let water collect around your home.
- Avoid camping overnight near freshwater swamps to reduce your risk of exposure to mosquitoes that carry the EEE virus. If you do go camping, use a tent with mosquito netting and use appropriate repellents

For additional information on EEE and WNV:
Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization
(617) 983-6800 or toll-free at (888) 658-2850
www.mass.gov/dph/wnv

For information on mosquito control in your city or town:
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
(617) 626-1777
www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/index.htm.
Or call your local