



CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT CENTER
77 PARK STREET
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703
PHONE 508-223-2222 (EXT. 3241) • FAX 774-203-1877

CHRISTOPHER M. QUINN, M.D.
HEALTH OFFICER

JESSICA HORSMAN B.S., R.N.
HEALTH AGENT

JACQUELINE JOYAL O'BRIEN, R.N.
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

JESSICA SANTOS
SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATOR

MICHALLA DASILVA
DEPUTY HEALTH AGENT

TECIA SILVA
OUTREACH/CASE MANAGEMENT

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Attleboro, MA

DATE: 08/10/2021

TOWN: Attleboro

CONTACT: Jessica L. Horsman B.S., R.N., Health Agent

TELEPHONE: 508-223-2222 x 3241

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Attleboro, Massachusetts. In 2020, 7,156 mosquito samples were tested for WNV and 99 samples were positive. Attleboro had 5 WNV positive mosquito samples identified in 2020.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **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.
- **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.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many 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 your windows and doors.

Information about WNV and reports of current and historical WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at: www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.