

City of Newton



Setti Warren
Mayor

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Interim Commissioner
1294 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone 617.796.1420 Fax 617.552.7063
TDD/TTY 617.796.1089



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

August 4, 2010

The City of Newton is urging residents to take important steps to prevent mosquito bites. Mosquitoes can transmit two serious diseases – West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

Both diseases are preventable. Residents should take the following precautions:

- **Use mosquito repellent when outdoors.** Repellents that contain DEET, permethrin, or picaridin provide protection against mosquitoes. Some are for clothing, some are for skin. In addition, oil of lemon eucalyptus has been found to provide as much protection as low concentrations of DEET when tested against mosquitoes found in the United States. Follow label instructions carefully, particularly when choosing a repellent for children.
- **Limit time spent outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.** Mosquitoes can be active anytime, but are most active from dusk to dawn.
- **Remove standing water** so mosquitoes can't breed. Check around your home for flower pots, tires, and wading pools that might have standing water.
- **Fix holes** in your window and door screens and make sure they are tightly attached.

No mosquitoes in Newton have tested positive for either WNV or EEE. However, mosquitoes in southeastern Massachusetts have tested positive for EEE. Mosquitoes trapped in Brookline have tested positive for WNV.

There are no plans in Newton at this time for aerial mosquito prevention spraying. Spraying is planned in southeastern Massachusetts communities because of the high risk of EEE there.

Catch basins in Newton are treated to prevent mosquitoes, and mosquitoes are trapped regularly for testing through Newton's participation in the Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Project.

Most people bitten by mosquitoes carrying WNV will experience no symptoms or very mild symptoms and will recover on their own. Persons over 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe WNV disease. People who are bitten by mosquitoes carrying EEE tend to experience more severe symptoms. Severe symptoms of both diseases include high fever, muscle weakness, headache, disorientation, neck stiffness, paralysis, coma, tremors, convulsions and sometimes death.

For more information, contact the Newton Health & Human Services Department at (617) 796-1420 or visit www.newtonma.gov

Email: lwalsh@newtonma.gov