

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MOSQUITOE PUBLIC INFORMATION SHEET

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) today announced that aerial spraying for mosquitoes will take place in specific areas of southeastern Massachusetts. So far this year, 22 communities in southeastern Massachusetts have been found by DPH to be at high risk for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. No human cases of EEE have been detected so far this year.

MDAR will conduct and monitor aerial spraying in specific areas of Bristol and Plymouth counties which are anticipated to begin on Thursday, August 8, and continue over several evenings. The ability to spray is weather dependent and may change. **Not every community in Bristol and Plymouth County will be sprayed, please see a comprehensive list below.** We are encouraging residents to visit DPH's website (<http://www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019>) for the latest updates on spraying in their specific communities.

- Communities entirely within the spray zone:
 - o Bristol County: Raynham, Taunton, Dighton, Berkley, Freetown, Acushnet
 - o Plymouth County: Whitman, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Hanson Bridgewater, Halifax, Plympton, Kingston, Carver, Middleborough, Lakeville, Rochester
- Communities partially in the spray zone:
 - o Bristol County: Easton, Norton, Rehoboth, Swansea, Fall River, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven
 - o Plymouth County: Brockton, Rockland, Hanover, Pembroke, Duxbury, Plymouth, Wareham, Marion, Mattapoisett

Aerial spraying is conducted by airplane in areas of concern during early evening and nighttime hours. **There are no health risks expected during or after spraying.** No special precautions are recommended, however, residents can reduce exposure by staying indoors during spraying.

Attached for your information is a press release and fact sheet about EEE and aerial spraying. Updates will be provided on the DPH website: (www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019).

The following resources are also available for your local communications –

- For questions about aerial spraying, contact MDAR Crop and Pest Services at (617) 626-1700.
- For the most updated information on EEE risk and aerial spraying, contact the DPH Division of Epidemiology (617) 983-6800 or visit the DPH website at (www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019) for updated mosquito results, maps and incidence of positive mosquito samples (www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).
- For general information on mosquito control, contact the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board within MDAR at (617) 626-1777.

Please feel free to contact me (ron.oconnor@state.ma.us), Jana Ferguson (jana.ferguson@state.ma.us), or Catherine Brown (Catherine.brown@state.ma.us) if you have any questions.