



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

HEALTH OFFICE

242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Rockland, MA

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TOWN: ROCKLAND

CONTACT: Delshaune Flipp
TELEPHONE: (781) 616-6813

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that the West Nile Virus (WNV) Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Rockland, Massachusetts. In 2024, 8,597 mosquito samples were tested for EEE, and 97 samples were positive.

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness. At this time, **our risk level remains low**. Residents are encouraged to take **basic precautions** to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illness, including:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Using insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk.
- Ensuring screens on windows and doors are in good repair.
- Eliminating standing water around your property.

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.

While the Rockland Health Office is working closely with the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)** and coordinating with the **Town Administrator, School Superintendent, and School Athletic Director** to remain proactive should the risk level increase. If our status changes, the community will be updated immediately with any additional safety measures.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses and prevention, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases>

Delshaune Flipp - Health Agent

HealthAgent@Rockland-MA.gov