

On Monday, July 21, 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reported West Nile Virus in a mosquito pool. The following information was provided by DPH:

“1. WNV has been detected in Massachusetts this season. Virus levels increase throughout the season so now is the time to start practicing personal protection.

Pick a mosquito repellent with an EPA-approved active ingredient and use it regularly when outdoors. Always read the label and apply according to the directions. If you need help selecting a repellent, one useful repellent selector tool is available here <http://pi.ace.orst.edu/repellents/>. Other personal protection actions include using long-sleeved shirts and pants to reduce exposed skin, weather permitting and avoiding areas with obvious mosquito activity.

2. To help prevent West Nile virus, it is particularly important to dump water from items that accumulate it at least twice per week can help reduce populations of these mosquitoes in your area.

- Drain buckets, barrels, tarps, and wheel barrows to avoid water accumulation
- Change the water twice each week in birdbaths and outdoor pet water dishes
- Keep rain gutters clean of debris
- Check children's outdoor toys for water accumulation

3. Populations of *Culiseta melanura*, a mosquito species of concern for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) are low but increasing. *Coquillettidia perturbans*, a species thought to be largely responsible for transmission of EEE to humans are quite high and EEE has been identified in some of these mosquitoes from one area in Bridgewater. Additional trapping and testing is being done to monitor the situation closely.”

4. EEE is back in southeastern Massachusetts and everyone is encouraged to use personal protective measures. Information about mosquito repellants specifically can be found at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/mosquito-repellents.pdf>.