

BOARD OF HEALTH

The following permits were issued through this Department.

Septic Systems:

Residential

New Construction	17
Replacement/Repair	13
Commercial New	9

Building Permits

19

Occupancy

36

Day Care

2

All permits were issued in compliance with Town and State requirements.

All concerns regarding potential health issues submitted to this office were addressed and the findings as well as the course of action were reported back to the Office of Selectmen.

The annual water testing of Country Pond was conducted and was found to be acceptable by State standards at the beginning of the swimming season. Upon subsequent random testing, test results were found not to be acceptable by state standards and signs prohibiting swimming were posted accordingly. Residents should be aware of any *postings* at town access points. Should swimming be prohibited signs will be posted at the entrance to the town beach and public boat launching areas.

Residents are encouraged to have their domestic water tested annually by a state certified lab. Some well water in New Hampshire may contain contaminants such as radon, uranium, and arsenic, which occur naturally in our bedrock. The NH Department of Environmental Services suggests homeowners with private wells have the quality of their water tested periodically for a comprehensive roster of contaminants. You can learn more about this by visiting the N.H. Department of Environmental Services' web site at www.des.state.nh.us/wseb, select "fact sheets" then 2-1. You may obtain a sampling bottle with instructions through this office.

I would like to share with you a few comments from a letter received from the Commissioner of Public Health, John A. Stephen dated December 27, 2006.

"I would like to commend you for your hard work this year in preventing mosquito-borne disease in NH citizens. I am sure you share my relief as we stand with the 2006 mosquito season behind us without a single human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) or West Nile virus (WNV) in New Hampshire. As you know, the State saw seven human cases of EEE in 2005, and this past season showed a high level of activity for the disease across New Hampshire.

Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is reviewing the season's findings and processes in order to prepare for 2007. With the budget season approaching, communities are considering financial and mosquito control efforts for the 2007 season. I have

received feedback from local elected officials for updates as to how communities should prepare. It is the Department's intent to be proactive in assisting you while preparing for the 2007 budget. My staff and I will be available to discuss mosquito-borne disease in New Hampshire, mosquito control reimbursement funding for 2007, and how we can best work together as a state and regionally to address mosquito-borne illness surveillance, control and prevention.”

“As New Hampshire has had limited recent experience with EEE and WNV, we are unable to forecast the level of risk for 2007. However, given the significant human impacts in 2005 and elevated level of virus found in mosquitoes during 2006, DHHS recommends communities consider mosquito-borne illness to be a human health risk for 2007.”

Sincerely,
John A. Stephen, Commissioner

New Hampshire Arbovirus Surveillance Results

October 15 – October 21, 2006*

HUMANS		Number Tested	WNV Positive	EEE Positive	Other Positive
Humans Tested	Week	10	0	0	0
	YTD	192	0	0	0

ANIMALS		Number Tested	WNV Positive	EEE Positive
Animals Tested	Week	0	0	0
	YTD	7	0	1

BIRDS		Number Tested	WNV Positive	EEE Positive
Birds Tested	Week	0	0	0
	YTD	137	22	5

MOSQUITOES		Number Tested	WNV Positive	EEE Positive
Mosquito Pools Tested	Week	0	0	0
	YTD	11682	0	40

This will be the last Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin for the 2006 season

Since State health officials continue to confirmed positive test results in various parts of the state for the WNV, EEE this past year, they strongly urge residents to eliminate mosquito-breeding opportunities around their homes this spring by taking the following steps:

- Remove all discarded tires. The used tire has become the most important domestic mosquito producer in the country.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water holding containers.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors.

- Make sure gutters drain properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use keep empty and covered.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property. Use landscaping as needed.

Anyone wishing to learn more about West Nile Virus / EEE may call the Department of Health and Human Services, West Nile Virus Information Line at **(866) 273-6453** or login at www.dhhs.state.nh.us or for specific questions about WNV in horses, please call the Department of Agriculture at **(603) 271 –2404**.

Please remember your first line of defense against the West Nile Virus is:
Prevention, Prevention, and Prevention.
Informational Telephone Numbers and Web Sites

NH Dept. of Environmental Services A-Z Topic List
www.des.state.nh.us/programs.asp

NH West Nile Virus Informational Line
 1-866-273-6453
www.dhhs.state.nh.us

NH Dept. of Environmental Services
 603-271-3503
www.des.state.nh.us/

NH Dept. Of Environmental Quick Links
www.nh.gov/government/agencies.html

NH DES Directory to Programs and Services by Subject Telephone Number
www.des.state.nh.us/asp/phonedir/phonedir.asp

Dragon Mosquito Control
 603-964-8400

Should you have any question or concerns you may contact me at any time. You may reach me by calling 603-498-8028 or through the Selectmen's Office at 382-4405.

It has been my pleasure serving you as Health Officer for the past year and I will continue to enforce the Public Health Laws and rules in the future in order to safeguard the Public Health for the Town Of Newton.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Robert R. Leverone, Health Officer