

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL, INC.

AUGUST 2019 UPDATE

By Labor Day, a horse from Northwood and mosquitoes collected in Candia, Hampstead, Sandown, Manchester and Pelham, New Hampshire have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) at the State Lab. One batch of mosquitoes from Manchester had also tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Earlier in August, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced that an adult male from Kingston, NH tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) and Powassan Virus (POW). Eastern Equine Encephalitis, WNV and JCV are spread by infected mosquitoes and POW by ticks. There are no vaccines to prevent these vector-borne diseases and treatment consists of supportive care.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is considered the deadliest arbovirus in North America. Since 2004, there have been 15 human infections of EEE identified in NH; the last human case of EEE in NH was in 2014, when there were three cases. Currently in Massachusetts, seven humans with one death, 400 mosquito samples and nine animals have tested positive for EEE.

Jamestown Canyon Virus is a disease carried by mosquitoes that circulates primarily between deer and a variety of mosquito species, and can also infect humans. The illness is considered serious, but rare. JCV detection in humans has been increasing over the last several years. New Hampshire has identified seven cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus since 2013.

Mosquito control reduces the number of mosquitoes which decreases but does not eliminate the disease risk. The best way to prevent infection from EEE and other mosquito-borne illnesses like JCV and WNV is to prevent mosquito bites. Stay vigilant when you are outside. Protect yourself by using an EPA approved mosquito repellent, avoid exposure at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, wear long pants and long sleeves, and remove standing water from around your home that mosquitoes need to lay eggs. Mosquitoes can reproduce in a very small amount of water. Dump containers after every rain event. Use air conditioning or screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. Protect your animals. There are EEE and WNV vaccines available for horses. Mosquitoes can spread heartworm to dogs and cats. Check with your veterinarian for heartworm prevention.

Mosquito trapping and disease testing will continue until mid-October. Surveillance crews set out and retrieve 140 traps each week traveling more than 700 miles. At this point in the season, we have trapped, sorted and identified nearly eighty thousand mosquitoes and over twenty-one hundred mosquito batches have been sent to the State Lab in Concord for testing. Treatment of mosquito larvae in wetlands is ongoing. The threat of mosquitoes carrying disease won't diminish until late fall.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Vice President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.