

# DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL, INC.

## SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE

The risk of disease spread by mosquitoes and ticks has become a part of life in New England. While fall has arrived and the number of mosquitoes has declined, mosquitoes that are still here have a higher probability of carrying disease. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) activity on the southern New Hampshire border and EEE mosquitoes trapped in New Hampshire prompted a number of towns to spray public areas for adult mosquitoes in September to further reduce the number of mosquitoes and therefore the risk to residents. Eastern Equine Encephalitis activity continues to rise in Massachusetts. Currently in Massachusetts, 12 humans with three deaths, 9 animals and 426 mosquito samples have tested positive for EEE. York County, Maine had mosquitoes test positive and one horse die from EEE. The State increased the risk level of bordering New Hampshire towns and cities due to Maine's EEE positives.

In New Hampshire, EEE infected mosquitoes have been trapped in Candia, Hampstead, Newton, Sandown, Manchester, Pelham and Fremont this season. A horse in Northwood contracted EEE this year but, at this time, no human cases have been detected. EEE is spread by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds. Humans, horses and other types of mammals can become infected from a mosquito bite, but the virus cannot be transferred from mammal to mammal. You can't get EEE from a horse.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services assigns arboviral disease risk levels to all New Hampshire municipalities. Information gathered through mosquito trapping and testing helps inform these decisions. Check the following link at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/documents/arbomap2018.pdf> to find your town's assigned risk level. Trapping and testing will continue through mid-October.

The 12-month period from September 2018 through August 2019 was the fourth wettest on record for the continental U.S. according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition, the summer of 2019 made it into the top five warmest. Record rainfall and heat create ideal conditions for mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. NOAA predicts a warm fall and October is shaping up to be a wet one. Though the end of mosquito season is in sight, it is not here yet. The risk of mosquito borne disease will not diminish until we have a hard freeze or there is snow on the ground. Continue to avoid mosquito bites.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Diana Eddins-Wiggin*  
Vice President  
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.