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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about Mosquito-Borne Diseases

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What is Newton’s risk level for EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) and WNV (West Nile Virus)?

Newton’s current risk level (as of 9/13/19) is low for EEE and moderate for WNV. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) regularly updates the risk level for WNV and EEE for all communities in the state. Several factors are a part of determining the level of risk assigned to a community. These include whether mosquitoes in that community have tested positive for a mosquito-borne disease, and whether there have been any reported animal or human cases of WNV or EEE this season.

How can I check the risk level in Newton or elsewhere?

Here is the map MDPH regularly updates that indicates the risk level in Newton. <http://www.mosquitoresults.com/> If you click below each map, you’ll see there is a chart (What does my risk level mean?) that indicates the corresponding recommended behavior for that risk level.

How do you know if mosquitoes in Newton are carrying diseases?

The City of Newton, as a part of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) <https://sudbury.ma.us/emmcp/>, regularly traps and tests mosquitoes in Newton for a variety of mosquito-borne diseases including both WNV and EEE. Thus far, mosquitoes with WNV but not EEE have been found in Newton. We do not anticipate EEE to be found in Newton mosquitoes. The type of environment where EEE mosquitoes are typically found – white cedar and large red maple swamps – is not common in Newton so the risk of EEE in Newton remains low.

What are you doing to protect Newton residents from mosquito-borne diseases?

Prevention is an ongoing collaborative effort among, Newton HHS, the EMMCP and MDPH. Early in the season, EMMCP treats catch basins in Newton to prevent mosquitoes in the larval stage from developing. Through EMMCP mosquito traps, the type and volume of mosquitoes are monitored throughout the season and tested for diseases. Additionally, HHS uses a variety of methods to reach the general public and specific populations with messages about personal prevention such as using mosquito repellent and avoiding outdoor activity during peak mosquito hours.

What does that stand for?

WNV: West Nile Virus

EEE: Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Newton HHS: Newton Health and Human Services Department

EMMCP: East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project

MDPH: Massachusetts Department of Public Health



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Will you spray for mosquitoes?

There are no plans to spray for mosquitoes in Newton at this time based on current conditions and the risk level for mosquito-borne disease in Newton.

What can I do to protect myself from mosquito-borne disease?

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an [EPA-registered ingredient](#) (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)], or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to skin. [Here is a helpful fact sheet about mosquito repellents.](#)

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from [dusk to dawn](#) are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning if possible.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Drain Standing Water. 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 the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

Check the risk level for EEE and WNV when traveling outside of Newton at www.mosquito-results.com and follow these recommendations:

Risk Level	What it Means (EEE)	What you can do (EEE)	What it Means (WNV)	What you can do (WNV)
Low	EEE may occur in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mosquito repellent and long sleeves/long pants from dusk to dawn Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens 	Infection with WNV is unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair screens Drain standing water Wear mosquito repellent and long sleeves/long pants from dusk to dawn Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens



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Moderate	EEE occurred in the area within the last year and/or there are EEE positive mosquitoes in the area now	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear mosquito repellent when outdoors, especially between dusk and dawn • Avoid outside areas with obvious mosquito activity 	Infection with WNV is likely or has already occurred	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear mosquito repellent and long sleeves/long pants • Dump standing water twice weekly
High	Conditions likely to lead to infection of a person with EEE are occurring in the area	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn) • Avoid overnight camping, particularly near freshwater swamps where EEE activity is most likely 	More people in the area may get infected with WNV	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People over 50 or those who are immunocompromised should adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn)
Critical	Excessive risk from EEE virus exists, a person with EEE infection has been identified in the area	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel or reschedule outdoor gatherings, organized sporting events, etc. to avoid peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn) 	Unusually high risk from WNV exists	Everything above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation specific recommendations will be made – check with the city/town’s health department

Information about EEE and WNV and reports of current and historical EEE and WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito>