

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is Urging residents To Continue to Take Precautions to Avoid Mosquito Bites until Sustained Hard Frost Due to the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus

With warm temperatures continuing into the start of fall, the following are recommendations to avoid mosquito bites until the first sustained hard frost. A sustained hard frost is overnight temperatures below 30 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 hours and the collapse of decorative yard plants.

- Consider using mosquito repellent. Choosing an EPA –registered repellent ensures the EPA has evaluated the product for effectiveness. Always follow the product label instructions.
- Minimize time spent outdoors between dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active.
- Remove standing water where mosquitoes could lay eggs.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time when mosquitoes are most active. Clothing should be light colored.
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, or trash containers. Mosquitoes lay eggs near water.
- Use larvicides to treat large containers of water that will not be used for drinking water and cannot be covered or dumped.

Connecticut Department of Health officials has identified fifteen communities in the State where mosquitoes tested positive for the EEE Virus. The majority of the towns are in New London County which is in the Southeastern Corner of the State. There is one positive case in Hartford County. The numbers of infected mosquitoes are declining and the State is not experiencing the high levels seen in Massachusetts.

QVHD received confirmation from the North Haven Mosquito Trapping Surveillance Site that a mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile Virus. There has been one positive case of West Nile Virus in the State.

For Questions concerning West Nile Virus and humans, you can contact QVHD, 203-248-4528, M-F 8:30am-4:30pm