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From: Pauline Zajdel, Health Director

Date: 8/16/2016

RE: Risk Communication for WNV and EEE

West Nile virus activity continues to expand across the state. MDPH identified 25 WNV positive mosquito samples tested during week 32. These findings prompted increases to the WNV risk levels for communities in Barnstable, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester counties. Above average temperatures and localized precipitation events are continuing to produce large mosquito populations among species most likely to spread West Nile virus (*Culex* species). August and early September is the peak period for WNV human transmission.

Residents are urged to avoid mosquito bites regardless of where they live. A single mosquito sample from Middleborough has tested EEE virus positive; multiple negative samples and low populations of *Culiseta melanura* indicate that risk is not increased or widespread at this time. Check your risk levels throughout the season by visiting [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).

To help promote prevention activities please see our website at [www.foxboroughmag.gov](http://www.foxboroughmag.gov)

These can also be found at [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks)

**Establish good habits now:**

- Pick a repellent with an EPA-approved active ingredient
- Use long sleeves to cover up when possible
- Repair screens
- Remove standing water to help reduce mosquito populations
- Teach children to be aware of mosquito activity around them and avoid it

**NOTE:** Zika virus continues to be very active in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America. The mosquitoes that spread this disease are active during the day. Travelers who are pregnant or part of a couple planning on becoming pregnant soon are advised not to travel to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission. The most current information about locations at risk can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>.

If residents choose to travel, prevent mosquito exposure by: using EPA registered mosquito repellents, cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, stay in places with screens and air-conditioning, or sleep under mosquito netting.

In order to avoid sexual transmission of Zika virus from a partner who has recently traveled to an area where Zika transmission is occurring, abstain from sexual contact or use condoms consistently and correctly during all sexual activity. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health Arbovirus Surveillance Program Report

### Key Public Risk Communication Messages for This Week:

West Nile virus activity continues to expand across the state; MDPH identified 25 WNV positive mosquito samples tested during week 32. These findings prompted increases to the WNV risk levels for communities in Barnstable, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester counties. Above average temperatures and localized precipitation events are continuing to produce large mosquito populations among species most likely to spread West Nile virus (*Culex* species). August and early September is the peak period for WNV human transmission, residents should be urged to avoid mosquito bites regardless of where they live. A single mosquito sample from Middleborough has tested EEE virus positive; multiple negative samples and low populations of *Culiseta melanura* indicate that risk is not increased or widespread at this time. Check your risk levels throughout the season by visiting [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).

Remember that several 30 second PSA videos are available for download and use on your website to help promote prevention activities to your residents. These can be found at [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks)

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<b>WNV and EEE Virus Surveillance Summary</b>	
Results contained in this report reflect data inclusive of MMWR Week 32 (Sunday, 08/07/2016– Saturday, 08/13/2016 )	
<b>Mosquito Surveillance - Cumulative</b>	
Number of Mosquito Samples Tested	4248
Number of WNV Positive Samples	61
Number of EEE Positive Samples	1
<b>Equine/Mammal Surveillance - Cumulative</b>	
Number of Mammal Specimens Tested	2
Number of WNV Positive Horses	0
Number of EEE Positive Horses	0
Number of other EEE Positive Mammals	0
<b>Human Surveillance - Cumulative</b>	