

WEST NILE VIRUS

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Bos Agenda

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WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)?

West Nile virus is a **mosquito-carried virus** that usually causes mild or no illness in humans. In rare cases, WNV can cause encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or meningitis (swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

IS WNV IN MASSACHUSETTS?

Yes. WNV has been found in Massachusetts in birds, mosquitoes, horses and humans.

HOW IS WNV SPREAD?

WNV is most commonly spread to people by the **bite of an infected mosquito**. A mosquito can become infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. It may also be spread through blood transfusions or organ transplants. There are reports that WNV may be passed from pregnant or breastfeeding women to their babies. The risk to the unborn baby is still unknown.

SHOULD I REPORT DEAD BIRDS?

Yes. It is important to report the location of dead birds to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health by calling 1-866-MASS WNV (627-7968). While most dead birds will not be collected and tested for WNV, keeping track of their locations plays an important role in guiding further bird, mosquito and human surveillance activities.

WILL THERE BE PESTICIDE SPRAYING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Depending on whether or not WNV is found in birds and mosquitoes in your area, pesticide spraying may be done. Your local board of health or mosquito control project is the best source for information about pesticide spraying.

I'VE BEEN BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO. SHOULD I BE TESTED FOR WNV?

No. Illnesses caused by mosquito bites are very rare. Very few mosquito bites carry any risk. People who are bitten by mosquitoes carrying the WNV will usually experience **no illness or very mild illness**. However, you should see a health care provider immediately if you develop symptoms such as:

- high fever
- severe headache
- confusion
- stiff neck
- muscle weakness
- sensitivity to light

Patients with mild symptoms usually recover completely and do not require any specific medication or laboratory testing. Less than 1% of people infected

with WNV develop serious illness. Persons older than 50 years of age have a higher risk of developing severe illness such as encephalitis.

IS THERE TREATMENT OR A VACCINE FOR WNV?

There is **no human vaccine or specific treatment** for WNV infection, but health care providers can treat the symptoms of WNV. In severe cases, hospitalization may be needed to provide supportive care.

Questions?

Call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS WNV (627-7968) or visit our web site:

www.state.ma.us/dph

Protect Yourself

Your risk of getting ill from WNV is low, but you can lower your risk even more. Since there is no human vaccine for WNV, **the best way to protect yourself is to keep mosquitoes from biting you.** Follow these simple steps and protect yourself:

- Limit **outdoor activities** between dusk and dawn.
- If you must be outdoors, wear a **long-sleeved shirt, long pants and socks.**
- Consider using a **mosquito repellent** that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) and follow the directions on the label. Never use DEET on infants. Avoid using repellents with DEET concentrations above 10-15% for children and above 30-35% for adults. Cream, lotion or stick formulas are best for use on skin.
- Make sure **window and door screens** do not have holes in them.

Remove Standing Water

Mosquitoes grow in standing (stagnant) water. Getting rid of that water helps to lower the number of mosquitoes in your area. Look around outside your house for containers and other things that might collect water and turn them over, regularly empty them, or dispose of them.



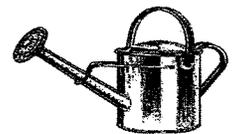
wheelbarrows



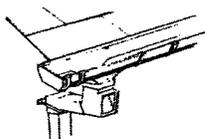
unused flower pots



trash cans and lids



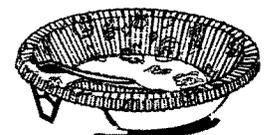
watering cans



storm gutters



tires



wading pools

BOS Agenda

9/8

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John Murray

From: Doug Halley
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2003 8:59 AM
To: 'Brusie, David'
Cc: Merrily Evdokimoff; Jean Fleming; John Murray; Don Johnson
Subject: West Nile Virus

On September 2, 2003 the Town received its second positive west Nile virus notification of a bird sent to the State Lab. This bird was found in the Nonset Path neighborhood adjacent to Great Road and Nagog Pond. In addition, three other birds have been sent in for testing from other areas of town and the department expects back positive results from those tests. At this point the Board of Health doesn't believe it is necessary to test any more birds. They believe that these tests have confirmed that Acton is in an affected area. In accordance with the Board of Health policy larvaciding and surveillance will be expanded as much as possible and in particular the areas where dead birds have been found. Attached with this email is a West Nile Virus Fact sheet, which we would request that the Beacon publish. This document provides details in regards to what actions people should take to protect themselves from the West Nile Virus. In addition, the Board will be working closely with the School Department and Senior Citizens to keep them informed and monitored. In particular the Board has requested that the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project place mosquito traps at each of the schools to monitor the type of mosquitoes and the presence of the virus. In addition, the Board is requesting that the Nursing Service and the Council on Aging distribute the West Nile Virus Fact Sheet to their clients.

9/4/2003

John Murray

From: Central Mass. Mosquito Control [cmmcp@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2003 3:01 PM
To: Doug Halley; William H McInnis
Cc: Don Johnson; John Murray; Mark Conoby; mcinniw@raytheon.com;
 robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com; Roxanne Hunt; Brent Reagor; Heather Marceau; Sheryl
 Ball; Merrily Evdokimoff
Subject: Re: West Nile Virus

Doug, we should have more traps in those areas this week.

It's late in the season for any more basins, Culex mosquitoes seem to switch to above ground areas at this time of year according to Andrew Speilman from Harvard School of Public Health, and any larvae now breeding wouldn't have virus to transmit until October at the earliest; an advisory about avoidance, repellents, etc would be the best advice for now until/unless we find WNV in additional (human-biting) species. Reminders about containers holding water is also important.

Wetland areas will continue to be monitored and treated if necessary throughout the month.

Timothy D. Deschamps, Asst. Supt.
 Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
 ph. (508) 393-3055 fax (508) 393-8492
 CMMCP website: www.cmmcp.org

----- Original Message -----

From: Doug Halley <dhalley@acton-ma.gov>
 To: <cmmcp@att.net>; William H McInnis <William_H_McInnis@raytheon.com>
 Cc: Don Johnson <djohnson@acton-ma.gov>; John Murray <jmurray@acton-ma.gov>; Mark Conoby <markc@concorp.com>; <mcinniw@raytheon.com>; <robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com>; Roxanne Hunt <Roxannehunt@netscape.net>; Brent Reagor <breagor@acton-ma.gov>; Heather Marceau <hmarceau@acton-ma.gov>; Sheryl Ball <sbball@acton-ma.gov>; Merrily Evdokimoff <mevdokimoff@acton-ma.gov>
 Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2003 2:10 PM
 Subject: RE: West Nile Virus

On September 2, 2003 the Town received its second positive west Nile virus notification of a bird sent to the State Lab. This bird was found in the Nonset Path neighborhood adjacent to Great Road and Nagog Pond. In addition we have a third bird in the Orchard Drive area which we sent in today and expect back a positive result tomorrow. At this point I don't believe it is necessary to test any more birds. I believe we have confirmed that we are in an affected area. In accordance with the Board of Health policy larvaciding and surveillance should be expanded as much as possible and in particular the areas where dead birds have been found. We will again issue a press release in regards to what actions people should take. Unless we start seeing the human contact mosquitoes showing signs of west Nile virus or a human case I would recommend that we continue in accordance with the Board's policy.

-----Original Message-----

From: cmmcp@att.net [mailto:cmmcp@att.net]
 Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2003 5:52 PM
 To: William H McInnis
 Cc: Brusie, David; Doug Halley; Don Johnson; John Murray; Mark Conoby; mcinniw@raytheon.com; robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com; Roxanne Hunt
 Subject: Re: West Nile Virus

I agree - it gives the public a sense of cooperation and determination that strengthens both of our programs.

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> > Doug, we'll have traps out there right away, and I will look over
> > our catch basin program to see if we need to follow up in the area.
> > I will
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> > have some landing counts done at the school and surrounding area as
> > well to give us an indication of prevalent mosquito levels and
> > species. You can include these items in the press release if you
> > desire.
> >
> > Timothy D. Deschamps, Asst. Supt.
> > Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
> > ph. (508) 393-3055 fax (508) 393-8492
> > CMMCP website: www.cmmcp.org
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: Doug Halley
> > To: Central Mass. Mosquito Control ;
> > robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com ; mcinniw@raytheon.com ; Roxanne
> > Hunt ; Mark Conoby
> > Cc: Don Johnson ; John Murray ; Brusie, David
> > Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2003 2:13 PM
> > Subject: West Nile Virus
> >
> > The Town received confirmation of its first bird with West Nile
> > Virus. The bird was found on the Conant School grounds on August
> > 8th and was sent into the state over the weekend for testing. In
> > accordance with Board of Health policy the department will send a
> > press release for this initial finding; request that CMMCP
> > intensify source reduction efforts; request
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> > that CMMCP intensify larval control efforts in the general area of
> > the Conant School (80 Taylor Road and assess larvacide residuals in
> > the same area. Please call if you have any questions.
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> From: cmmcp@att.net [mailto:cmmcp@att.net]
> Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2003 5:52 PM
> To: William H McInnis
> Cc: Brusie, David; Doug Halley; Don Johnson; John Murray; Mark Conoby;
> mcinniw@raytheon.com; robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com; Roxanne Hunt
> Subject: Re: West Nile Virus

> I agree - it gives the public a sense of cooperation and determination
> that strengthens both of our programs.

>> Tim,

>> Thanks for your prompt response and effective measures. I think
>> adding

>> the partnership between the Town and Central Mass makes the press
>> release stronger.

>> Regards,

>> Bill McInnis
>> BoH Chair

>> "Central Mass.

>> Mosquito To: "Doug Halley"

>> <dhalley@acton-ma.gov>, Control" <robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com>,
>> <mcinniw@raytheon.com>,

>> <cmmcp@att.net> "Roxanne Hunt"

>> <Roxannehunt@netscape.net>, "Mark Conoby"
>> <markc@concorp.com>

>> 08/12/2003 02:28 cc: "Don Johnson"

>> <djohnson@acton-ma.gov>, "John Murray"
>> PM <jmurray@acton-ma.gov>,

> "Brusie,
> David" <Dbrusie@cnc.com> Subject: Re: West Nile
> Virus Please respond

>> to "Central

>> Mass. Mosquito

>> Control"

John Murray

From: Central Mass. Mosquito Control [cmmcp@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2003 3:44 PM
To: Doug Halley; William H McInnis
Cc: Brent Reagor; Don Johnson; Heather Marceau; John Murray; Mark Conoby; mcinniw@raytheon.com; Merrily Evdokimoff; robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com; Roxanne Hunt; Sheryl Ball
Subject: Re: West Nile Virus

Some good points/questions.... (replies in CAPS below)

> 1) When does larvaciding cease to be an effective tool? LARVICIDING IS ALWAYS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL UNTIL LARVAE DIE OR BECOME DORMANT, ACCORDING TO SPECIES. BUT FOR WNV CONTROL WE ARE LEAVING THE EFFECTIVE TIME PERIOD. FROM EGGS TO VIRUS-TRANSMITTING ADULT IT CAN BE AS MUCH AS 3 OR 4 WEEKS

> 2) Same question for adulticiding? (I believe this is temperature dependant). YES, TEMPERATURE IS VERY IMPORTANT - BELOW 55F THE PRODUCT > IS

INEFFECTIVE, AND MOSQUITOES ARE VERY LETHARGIC AND NOT FLYING

> 3) What other options do we have for reducing the possibility of human > transmission, other than personal protection? PERSONAL PROTECTION IS > THE

BEST OPTIONS UNLESS RISK INDICATORS (SPECIES PREVALENCE AND ABUNDANCE) SHOW OTHERWISE, THEN WE WOULD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ADULTICIDING

> I would request that CMMCP continue the mosquito traps, and expand > them to cover all our elementary school locations. I am interested in > their recommendation of risk based on the species of mosquito found. > If the risk is increased, perhaps we recommend the school dept avoid > outdoor recess until after 10 AM, or something similar to reduce the > risk of exposure. Since young children are in the group most likely to > contract encephalitis from West Nile, I would like to be sure we are > extra vigilant around the schools. While we can't protect everyone, we > can make sure that the Town

is
> doing everything reasonably possible for those in our care.

TRAPPING WILL CONTINUE AND EXPAND. WE HAVE NOT TRAPPED ANY MOSQUITOES IN ACTON WITH VIRUS, ONE COLLECTION IN HUDSON HAD CULEX RESTUANS, A PREDOMINATELY BIRD BITING MOSQUITO. RISK IS NOT NECESSARILY ELEVATED UNLESS/UNTIL WE SEE IT IN HUMAN-BITING MOSQUITOES. WE COULD TRAP AT SCHOOLS, BUT I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THE ELDERLY BE MADE AWARE BECAUSE THEY ARE ALSO VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO WNV. I HAVE SENT A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHOULD REACH THE BOH OFFICE TODAY OR TOMORROW.

----- Original Message -----

From: William H McInnis <William_H_McInnis@raytheon.com>
To: Doug Halley <dhalley@acton-ma.gov>
Cc: Brent Reagor <breagor@acton-ma.gov>; <cmmcp@att.net>; Don Johnson <djohnson@acton-ma.gov>; Heather Marceau <hmarceau@acton-ma.gov>; John Murray <jmurray@acton-ma.gov>; Mark Conoby <markc@concorp.com>; <mcinniw@raytheon.com>; Merrily Evdokimoff <mevdokimoff@acton-ma.gov>; <robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com>; Roxanne Hunt <Roxannehunt@netscape.net>; Sheryl Ball <sball@acton-ma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2003 2:57 PM
Subject: RE: West Nile Virus

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> Thanks for the info, Doug, and I agree that testing more birds is
> probably a waste of time.

John Murray

From: Doug Halley
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2003 8:18 AM
To: Bill Ryan
Cc: Merrily Evdokimoff; Heather Marceau; Brent Reagor; Don Johnson; John Murray; Robert Oliveri (robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com); Bill McInnis (mcinniw@raytheon.com); Roxanne Hunt; Mark Conoby
Subject: FW: West Nile Virus

As we talked about yesterday, on September 2, 2003, the Town received its second positive west Nile virus notification of a bird sent to the State Lab. This bird was found in the Nonset Path (293 Beaver Brook Road) neighborhood adjacent to Great Road and Nagog Pond. In addition we have a third bird in the Orchard Drive area which we sent in today and expect back a positive result tomorrow.

At this point the Board of Health doesn't believe it is necessary to test any more birds. They believe that it has been confirmed that we are an affected area.

In accordance with the Board of Health policy larvaciding and surveillance will be expanded as much as possible and in particular the areas where dead birds have been found. We will again issue a press release in regards to what actions people should take. Unless we start seeing the human contact mosquitoes showing signs of west Nile virus or a human case I would recommend that we continue in accordance with the Board's policy.

Due to these circumstances the Board of Health has requested CMMCP to place traps at each school location (Conant, Douglas, Gates and the Central Campus) to monitor the presence of the virus and the type of mosquitoes. The Board would also request that to the best extent possible the school system curtail outside activities until at least 9:00 A.M. in the morning. This curtailment should be kept in place until the first frost.

In addition, the Board would recommend that the school's custodial staff check the school grounds each day for any standing water and empty the water out. It should be noted that even a small Dixie cup of water is large enough to harbor mosquitoes. The Health Department should also be notified of any dead birds found on school grounds. We will no longer test any birds but we need to track their number and location. After notifying the Health Department your staff can dispose of the bird by double bagging it and placing it into a dumpster. Staff should wear plastic gloves whenever they are dealing with a dead animal and avoid direct contact.

> robert_n_oliveri@res.raytheon.com ; mcinniw@raytheon.com ; Roxanne
> Hunt ; Mark Conoby
> Cc: Don Johnson ; John Murray ; Brusie, David
> Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2003 2:13 PM
> Subject: West Nile Virus
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