

West Nile Virus - Acton

On Monday, September 10, 2001, the Acton Health Department was notified that a dead crow found on Musket Drive in Acton tested positive for the West Nile Virus. This is the first bird in Acton to test positive. Due to this finding, the Acton Health Department in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, will be increasing surveillance activities regarding dead birds and mosquitoes. Based on the outcome of these activities, the current Adulticide Mosquito Spraying Program may be expanded. In the meantime, the Health Department advises residents to adhere to the recommendations below.

Some Mosquitoes can carry serious diseases like West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Both are sometimes fatal. Urban house mosquitoes can carry WNV. Some mosquitoes found in wooded areas and salt marshes can carry WNV, and some can carry EEE.

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Protect yourself and your neighbors by:

- Cleaning your yard of things that collect standing water, such as buckets, old tires, junk and debris.
- Changing the water in birdbaths a couple of times a week.
- Keeping your gutters clean so rainwater can drain freely.
- Eliminating water that collects in boats and unused swimming pools, and then covering them.

Help your neighbors do the same!

DON'T GIVE MOSQUITOES A CHANCE TO BITE!

Mosquitoes that live in cities, as well as those that live in woods and swamps can carry serious disease. Wherever you live, avoid mosquito bites.

- Indoors, screens are your best protection against mosquitoes. Use screens on all open doors and windows.
- Inspect all screens and repair holes or tears. Be sure that screens fit tightly against their frames.
- Outdoors, do not leave infants in playpens or carriages without protective netting.
- Wear long sleeved tops and pants, particularly at dawn and dusk and into the evening.
- Limit children's outdoor play at sundown when mosquito activity is at its highest peak.
- Use insect repellent containing not more than 30% DEET. Do not use repellents containing DEET on infants and avoid getting repellent in children's eyes.

Please contact the Acton Board of Health at (978) 264-9634 with any questions about mosquito control within the Town of Acton.

You may also contact the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project at (508) 393-3055 to request the spray or no spraying of your property