



# North Central District Health Department

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## **State Reports Positive Mosquito for Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Windham**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Mosquito Management Program today reported that one mosquito pool trapped in Windham on October 25<sup>th</sup> tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). “Due to unseasonably warm weather during recent weeks, it is not unexpected to find EEE-infected mosquitoes this late of the season,” said Patrice Sulik, Director of Health at North Central District Health Department. “Even though mosquito numbers are declining with the onset of cold weather and the risk of contracting EEE by humans is low, it is important for residents to be aware of the risk of EEE infection and to recognize the importance of taking recommended personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites.” The North Central District Health Department recommends some simple steps to avoid mosquito bites:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Consider the use of mosquito repellents containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, including DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone when it is necessary to be outdoors.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are more active. Clothing should be light-colored and loose-fitting and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure and to protect infants when outdoors.

EEE is a rare but serious illness in humans with 4-8 cases reported in a typical year in the U.S. The last major outbreak occurred in 2019, involving 38 human cases nationally with 19 cases occurring in New England. EEE is the most severe mosquito-transmitted disease in the U.S. with approximately 40 percent mortality and significant brain damage in most survivors.

For information on EEE and other mosquito-borne diseases, what can be done to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, the latest mosquito test results, and human infections, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program website at <https://portal.ct.gov/mosquito>