



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DONNA D. HOLADAY
MAYOR

NEWBURYPORT CITY HALL

60 PLEASANT STREET

NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950

TEL: 978.465.4413

FAX: 978.465.4402

ROBERT F. BRACEY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Newburyport, MA

DATE: August 29, 2011

CONTACT: Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health

TOWN: Newburyport

TELEPHONE: 1-978-465-4410

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has announced that the West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in a single mosquito collected from Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health confirms that this is the first positive mosquito pool identified in the City of Newburyport this year. Since January 1, 2011 to August 26, 2011 there have been 175 mosquito pools that have tested positive for the West Nile Virus throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including several surrounding Essex County communities including Andover, North Andover, Boxford, Haverhill and Methuen.

In 2010, 3,558 mosquito samples were tested for WNV and 121 samples were positive. The City of Newburyport had zero (0) cases of West Nile Virus positive mosquito samples.

While no human cases of West Nile Virus infection have been reported in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so far this season, West Nile Virus is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

The City Health Department advises the following precautions for Newburyport residents to avoid mosquito bites so we don't see any human cases of West Nile Virus:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitos. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.

- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquito's away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

The Mayor's Office and City Health Department is working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control & Wetland Management District (NMCWMD) to combat any further spread of WNV in the City of Newburyport. The following course of action will be taking place in the upcoming days:

- At this time the affected area is limited to the west side of Newburyport –Turkey Hill Area
- Weekend storm waters washed out all basins in the west side dislodging mosquito collection traps and potentially dispersing mosquitoes in that area; therefore, all collection traps will be cleaned and reset today, Monday August 29, 2011
- **Monday, August 29, 2011** The City will inform Newburyport residents that a confirmed case of West Nile Virus was detected in a mosquito collected in Newburyport. The City Health Department will advise residents via local media outlets, cable access and code red on common sense precautions to take to protect themselves and their loved ones against mosquito bites
- **Monday, August 29, 2011** The Health Department will post on the City web site additional factual information for City residents about West Nile Virus and how to reduce exposure to mosquitoes
- **Monday, August 29, 2011** The City Health Department & (NMCWMD) will advise Newburyport residents via Cable access, local media outlet and code red of "*Selective Ground Adulticiding*" –Truck Spraying on the night of Wednesday, August 31, 2011 fro 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the affected area of Turkey Hill/west side.
- **Wednesday, August 31, 2011** – The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control & Wetland Management District will be conductin "*Selective Ground Adulticiding*" – Truck Spraying on the night of Wednesday, August 31, 2011 fro 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the affected area of Turkey Hill/west side.

- **Thursday, September 1, 2011** Collected mosquitos (of all area of Newburyport) will be tested.
- **Friday, September 2, 2011** Results of collected mosquitos will be provided to the City Health Department by MDPH. The result will determine if additional treatment will be necessary for the City of Newburyport.

Additional Information about West Nile Virus and reports of West Nile Virus activity in Massachusetts during 2010 can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>. Recorded information about West Nile Virus is also available by calling the MDPH Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS-WNV