



Jackson County Health Department

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Creating Healthy Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EEE confirmed in deer in Jackson County

JACKSON COUNTY, MI- MDHHS and the DNR have identified one deer in Jackson County that tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE. At the time of this publication, there were no human cases of EEE in Jackson County.

“Out of an abundance of caution, and in alignment with the guidance given by MDHHS, we recommend that groups limit if possible outdoor events and activities that occur during dusk to dawn, 7:00 pm to 7:00 am, or relocate the event to an indoor space,” says Rashmi Travis, Jackson County Health Department Health Officer. “These precautionary measures should continue until the first hard frost decreases the mosquito population.”

If relocating the activity is not possible, including, but not limited to, early morning bus pickup, JCHD strongly advises the following actions be taken:

- Use EPA-registered insect repellents that include DEET or another EPA-approved product.
- Wear socks with shoes, light-colored long pants, and long-sleeved shirts.
- Dump all standing water around homes and buildings.
- Ensure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens with tears or gaps.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.
- Use bed nets for those sleeping outdoors or in conditions with no window screens.
- Share these messages on your social media platforms to increase awareness about preventative measures to take.

EEE is a rare, deadly virus carried by mosquitoes that is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. The two mosquito species that carry it are most active from dusk until dawn (7:00 pm to 7:00 am). When possible, residents should avoid outdoor activities during this time. If outside during these hours, residents should apply bug spray that contain DEET, or other EPA-registered products to exposed skin or clothing. Persons under age 15 and over 50 are at greatest risk of severe

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disease following infection and should take extra measures to ensure they are not bitten by mosquitoes.

EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, with a 33 percent fatality rate in people who become ill and a 90 percent fatality rate in horses that become ill. Signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills, body and joint aches. EEE can develop into severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma and death may also occur in some cases. If you develop any of these signs seek medical attention immediately.

Michigan is experiencing widespread human and animal activity of EEE. As of September 19, Michigan has had seven confirmed human cases since July, including three fatalities in Cass, Van Buren, and Kalamazoo Counties; nine cases of EEE in horses have been confirmed in Barry, Kalamazoo, Lapeer and St. Joseph Counties; and six deer have been confirmed with EEE, including Jackson County's most recent case.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases visit www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

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