



Jackson County Health Department

1715 Lansing Avenue • Jackson, MI 49202 • Phone (517) 788-4420 • Fax (517) 788-4373



Creating Healthy Communities

Contact: **Rashmi Travis**

Phone Number: **517-768-1658**

Email Address: **rtravis@mijackson.org**

Date: September 30, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson County Participates in Aerial Mosquito Spraying

JACKSON COUNTY, MI- MDHHS and the DNR have confirmed one deer and one horse 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.

The State of Michigan will conduct aerial spraying in 14 counties in lower Michigan where EEE is present, including portions of Jackson County, to kill mosquitoes carrying the virus that causes EEE.

Aerial spraying in affected areas will begin no sooner than 8:00 PM on Sunday, September 29 and will depend on weather conditions. No matter when spraying begins, all spraying will conclude by 4:30 AM.

Approximate boundaries to be sprayed in Jackson County include areas in Concord and Grass Lake Townships. In Concord, Concord Hills Golf Course, the Calhoun County line, Folks Rd, and Behling Rd will serve as a rough estimate of where spraying will occur.

In Grass Lake, approximate boundaries include I-94, the north edge of Wolf Lake, Hayball Rd, and Maute Rd. These boundaries are approximate due to drift. All large, open bodies of water and reservoirs will be avoided.

The insecticide used is called Merus 3.0. Merus 3.0 is an organic pesticide containing 5% pyrethrin. Pyrethrins are chemicals found naturally in some chrysanthemum flowers. In general, no short-term or long-term risks to human health are expected during or after spraying. Merus 3.0 is used regularly in other parts of the country to prevent EEE with no negative impacts.

EEE is a very rare, but serious disease caused by a virus. The virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite infected birds. Mosquitoes spread the virus to humans or other mammals, like horses or deer. EEE is only spread by mosquitoes; it cannot be spread to you by other humans or animals.

Even if bitten by a mosquito that carries EEE, people have only a 4-5% chance of developing the disease. Symptoms usually occur within 4-10 days after the infected mosquito bite. Symptoms can be severe, including sudden onset of high fever, headache, stiff neck, and can cause swelling of the brain, leading to seizures, coma, or death.

Individuals who are over the age of 50, under the age of 15, or have compromised immune systems due to underlying medical conditions or treatments are at elevated risk for contracting the virus.

Avoid mosquito bites by doing the following:

- Use an EPA-approved insect repellent containing an active ingredient like DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus on exposed skin and/or clothing. Always follow the directions on the package.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors as the weather permits.
- Consider limiting time outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Maintain window and door screening to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, children's toys, or other containers around your home.

Anyone concerned about the spraying process can call: (517) 335-8165 Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/eee and www.cdc.gov/eee.

###