

EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS CASES ON THE RISE THREE POSITIVE CASES FOUND IN DHD#10 JURISDICTION

September 11, 2020 – According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cases in Michigan are on track to exceed those documented in 2019.

In 2019, 10 human cases of EEE were documented, including 6 deaths, and 50 cases were found in animals. To date, 18 equine EEE cases have been confirmed, and of these cases, 3 reside in District Health Department #10 jurisdiction: 2 in Newaygo County and 1 in Mecosta County.

EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases that can be transmitted to both animals and people. In Michigan, the virus is typically seen in late summer to early fall and poses a risk to both animals and humans until mid-October.

With the rise in EEE cases, DHD#10 is strongly encouraging horse owners to vaccinate their animals and for Michiganders to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites through the second hard frost by following the below precautions:

To protect your horses and other domestic animals (such as dogs, sheep, and goats), measures could include the following:

- Talking to a veterinarian about vaccinating horses against EEE.
- Placing livestock in a barn under fans (as mosquitos are not strong flyers) during peak mosquito activity from dusk to dawn.
- Using an insect repellent on an animal that is approved for the species.
- Eliminating standing water on the property—i.e., fill in puddles, repair eaves, and change the water in buckets and bowls at least once a day.
- Contacting a veterinarian if an animal shows signs of the illness: fever and stumbling, which can progress to being down and struggling to stand.

To protect yourself and your family, here's what you should do now:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved products, to exposed skin or clothing and always follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused children's pools, old tires, or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

For more information about EEE, visit www.mi.gov/eee.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>

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MEDIA CONTACT

Jeannine Taylor
Public Information Officer
O: 231-876-3823
C: 231-920-4998
E: jtaylor@dhd10.org



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