



DHD#10 REPORTS AERIAL TREATMENT PLANNED TO COMBAT EEE IN MECOSTA AND NEWAYGO COUNTIES

TREATMENT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE NIGHT OF SEPT. 16

September 15, 2020 – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), in an effort to prevent the spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), plans to conduct aerial mosquito control treatment the evening of September 16th.

EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States. Last year, more than 25 percent of the nation’s EEE cases were diagnosed in Michigan. In order to prevent the loss of life and protect public health, MDHHS has determined a targeted aerial treatment plan is necessary for high-risk areas, including Mecosta and Newaygo Counties. In general, health risks are not expected during or after spraying.

Aerial treatment is conducted by specialized aircraft, using an ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense fine aerosol droplets that remain in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact. Aerial treatment will begin in the early evening and continuing until the following dawn, as this is when mosquitos are most active. It is also when fish are less likely to be on the surface feeding and honeybees in their hives.

Although the aerial treatment is considered necessary to reduce human risk, it will not eliminate it. Residents must continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Avoiding the outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitos carrying the EEE virus are most active.
- Applying insect repellents containing the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved product to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer’s directions for use.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- Maintaining window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Emptying water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires, or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.
- Using nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

Additional information about aerial treatment and other health-related information is available in a Frequently Asked Questions document at Michigan.gov/EEE. You can also call the MDHHS hotline, which will now take calls for general questions about both COVID and EEE, at 1-888-535-6136. The hotline is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

###



MEDIA CONTACT

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



COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford
Kalkaska
Lake
Manistee
Mason
Mecosta
Missaukee
Newaygo
Oceana
Wexford



www.dhd10.org



www.facebook.com/DHD10