

West Nile Virus (WNV) vs. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommends different response plans for the two different viruses: WNV and EEE.
- These viruses are monitored on a weekly basis to determine levels of activity. Based upon the levels of activity, Cities and Towns are designated a risk category for WNV and EEE.
- When critical or high-risk levels of EEE are designated, communities are urged by the state to cancel all planned evening outdoor activities and events for the remainder of the season until the first hard frost- which is what has occurred in Westborough; and Northborough and Shrewsbury because they border Westborough.
- This is due to the increased likelihood of infection among children and the high risk for adverse health outcomes if children were to be infected with EEE virus.
- In the case of Worcester, this has not happened. Worcester has been designated in the “High” risk category for WNV only. West Nile Virus carries a much lower risk to children. **Based on state guidelines, this does not trigger the cancellation of evening activities.**
- As mosquito-borne infections can occur anywhere, even in times and areas of low or remote risk, citizens of all ages and in all locations are advised to take precautionary measures to protect themselves throughout the summer and fall mosquito season

We are reminding all residents to follow the recommended “5 D’s of Prevention”:

Remain indoors between the hours of “**Dusk and Dawn**”

Dress appropriately, covering skin with long sleeved shirts and pants

Apply insect repellent containing at least 30% **DEET**

Drain any standing water on your property