



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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SECOND MOSQUITO TESTED POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN PLYMOUTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/27/2025

PLYMOUTH, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced a second West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito was detected in Plymouth.

WNV is most often transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout Massachusetts and are found in urban and rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

Plymouth County Mosquito Control will conduct a small area ground spray in the Standish Ave/North Plymouth area, along with residential requests in South Plymouth from 2am to sunrise on Thursday, August 28th.

“The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the material used in spraying does not pose an unreasonable risk to birds, mammals or drinking water sources,” **states Plymouth’s Director of Public Health, Karen Keane.** *For more information on spraying, including to request or opt out of spraying and a list of streets scheduled to be sprayed, please visit [Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project - Spray Routes for Adult Mosquito Control](#).*

To protect yourself and loved ones from mosquito bites and the diseases that can be transmitted, it is important to follow tips found on the Massachusetts Department of Health’s website listed below:

Avoid Mosquito Bites:

- **Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors.** Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older

children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours.** The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

- **Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

- Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

For more information, including an updated risk map, please visit the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at [Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov](#), which is updated daily, or by calling the MDPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

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