

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)?

- It is a rare but serious disease caused and spread by certain species of mosquitoes. The virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Is EEE Seasonal?

- EEE occurs primarily in the late summer or early fall.

Is there a vaccine?

- Currently there is no vaccine available.

How common is EEE?

- EEE is very rare disease
- First Discovered in 1938
- 79 cases reported in MA
- between 1938 & 2004

- 50 of these cases occurred during outbreaks in 1938 and 1955

Symptoms of EEE Virus

- High Fever 103 - 106° F
- Headache
- Stiff Neck
- Lack of energy
- The symptoms show up 3 - 10 days after bitten by an infected mosquito
- Inflammation & swelling of the brain called encephalitis is the most dangerous symptom.
- The disease gets worse quickly and some patients may go into a coma within a week.

Protection and Prevention

**Consult with your physician about which repellent to use!*

- Wear insect repellent that contains DEET. Please use repellents according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening. These are peak mosquito biting times.
- Install or repair window and door screens.
- Drain sources of standing water such as...
 - ✓ Empty birdbaths, swimming pool covers, unused swimming pools, garbage barrels, flowerpots, and buckets.
 - ✓ Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
 - ✓ Remove discarded tires and other items that could collect water.
 - ✓ Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets, and wheelbarrows when not in use.

Important Phone Number and
Resources

Massachusetts Department of Public
Health - *Information line*
1-866-627-7968

Methuen Department of Public
Health

978-983-8655

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

WWW.EPA.GOV

Centers for Disease Control

WWW.CDC.GOV

Methuen Residents' Guide
To

EASTERN EQUINE
ENCEPHALITIS



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** Please Note: EEE can be
prevented by taking some simple
precautions.*

