



LIVINGSTON COUNTY Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Livingston County Urges Residents to Protect Against Mosquito Bites

HOWELL, Michigan. - (September 27, 2019) The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) continues to encourage residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites, until the first hard frost.

While Livingston County currently has no confirmed human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Michigan is currently experiencing its worst EEE outbreak in more than a decade with ongoing cases reported in humans and animals. The total number of human cases identified this year are higher than the total number of cases over the last 10 years combined and we continue to see an increase in cases across the state.

EEE is the most dangerous mosquito-borne disease in the United States. Approximately 33% of people who develop a serious infection from EEE will die. People under the age of 15 and over the age of 50 are at greatest risk. The severity of this disease illustrates the importance of taking precautions against mosquito bites.

LCHD recommends that residents protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these steps:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered 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 kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

-more-

The public health response to EEE includes recommendations to communities to consider postponing, rescheduling, or cancelling outdoor activities occurring at or after dusk until the first hard frost of the year, particularly activities that involve children. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and 12 local health departments have decided to conduct aerial spraying in areas that have experienced EEE cases in humans, animals, or both. For detailed information on the aerial spraying, please see this press release from MDHHS: <https://bit.ly/2moVS1F>.

Signs of EEE infection include the sudden onset of fever, chills, and body and joint aches, which can progress to a severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma and death may also occur in some cases. Anyone who thinks they may be experiencing these symptoms should contact a medical provider.

For additional information on EEE, including Frequently Asked Questions and updates on EEE activity, please visit Michigan.gov/EEE.

CONTACT:

Natasha Radke, Health Promotion Coordinator
Livingston County Health Department
(517) 546-9850
nradke@livgov.com
www.lchd.org
<https://www.facebook.com/myLCHD>

#