

**TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

July 28, 2010

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Alert Level Raised in Kingston

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced that the risk for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in people has increased in a large part of Southeastern Massachusetts including Kingston.

Mosquitoes recently collected in Fairhaven and Duxbury tested positive for the EEE virus. One infected mosquito was identified as a mammal biter, making it more likely to transmit infection to people. EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. People under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at the greatest risk for serious illness.

The Kingston Board of Health in conjunction with Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project will do a town wide ground spraying on Thursday the 29th of July 2010 from 2:00 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. If the public needs any technical information about spraying it is on the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Program website www.plymouthmosquito.org.

The Kingston Board of Health, in an emergency meeting held Tuesday, July 27, 2010 voted the following:

Closure of all municipal recreational complexes including Reed Community Building, Pottle Street/Opachinski Fields, Gray's Beach, Benelli Field, Kingston Elementary and Intermediate School Fields, Silver Lake Regional High School and Middle School Fields and all Sacred Heart School Fields. Closure shall occur from dusk each evening and run through dawn the next morning until further notice.

The Board of Health is reminding residents of the following:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **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. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

- **Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors.** Use a repellent with DEET (N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol (PMD)) or IR3535 (as contained in Skin-So-Soft bug Guard Plus 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% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

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 either draining or getting rid of items that hold water, check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.