



CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

190 E. Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth

Phone: 269-969-6370
Fax: 269-969-6470

"Working to enhance our community's total well-being"

TO: Calhoun County Municipalities, Day Cares, and School Leaders
FROM: Calhoun County Public Health Department
DATE: September 20, 2019
ATTACHMENTS: EEE Fact Sheet, EEE One-Page Information Sheet, and MDHHS 9/20/19 PR
RE: **Rare, Deadly Mosquito-borne Infection Risk**

Since our initial communication on September 18 which noted CCPHD's investigation of a possible human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a Calhoun County resident, the following has occurred:

- The human case under investigation has been determined to be a case of EEE
- CCPHD has begun an investigation into second possible human case of EEE
- Report and determination of an animal case of EEE in Calhoun County

Given demonstrated human and animal EEE transmission in Calhoun County and ongoing risk of infection, the CCPHD has recommended personal protective measures to county residents which include avoiding outdoor activities from dusk until dawn and using EPA-registered insect repellent.

Most who are infected with the virus that causes EEE do not become ill. However, persons below the age of 15 or above the age of 50 years have greater risk of developing a severe infection that has high potential for permanent brain damage or death. Calhoun County residents will continue to be at risk for EEE infection until the first frost decreases mosquito populations. The mosquito species that transmits the EEE virus to humans is most active from dusk until dawn.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in alignment with the guidance given by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the CCPHD is recommending, when possible, that municipalities, schools, and community groups reschedule outside events that occur during dusk to dawn hours (7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) to an earlier time or relocate the outdoor event to an indoor space. These precautionary measures should continue until the first hard frost decreases the mosquito population in Calhoun County.

If rescheduling or relocating the activity is not possible, the CCPHD is recommending the following actions be taken:

- Use EPA-registered insect repellants that include DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone and by wear shoes with socks, light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Children under 2 months old should not use repellent but rather be covered in clothing that covers arms and legs; strollers and baby carriers should be covered with mosquito netting.
- Eliminate sources of standing water around your respective homes, institutions, and jurisdictions.
- Ensure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.
- Encourage the use of bed nets for those sleeping outdoors or in conditions with no window screens.

- Share these messages on your social media platforms to help increase awareness about preventative measures to take.

For more information regarding EEE, visit www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases, or www.cdc.gov/eee.

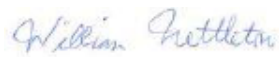
If you have any questions, please call the Calhoun County Public Health Department at 269-969-6366.

We thank you for your partnership in protecting the health of our community.

Sincerely,



Eric Pessell
Health Officer



William Nettleton, MD, MPH
Medical Director