



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Community Development Division

**West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquito Sample from North Andover**

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TOWN: North Andover

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**The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from the southeast region of the Town of North Andover, Massachusetts.**

North Andover is a member of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control District. NEMMC provides mosquito control services according to the North Andover Board of Health annual control plan. In spring 2009, the NEMMC treated all catch basins to reduce mosquito numbers. Throughout the summer, they have conducted surveillance of mosquito numbers and species. In mid-August, town and school athletic fields were treated with a pesticide as a precaution.

The athletic fields will be retreated within the next week to protect residents who may gather at sporting events or other activities in the early evening, when mosquitoes are most active. Timing will be coordinated in conjunction with the North Andover School Department and Youth Services Division. Proper notice will be made to school children according to state and federal law. At this time, evening events are not expected to be rescheduled. Any changes in local plans required by further mosquito testing will be released to the public immediately.

**By taking a few common-sense precautions, residents can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:**

**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 wear protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be uncomfortable 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, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535**, **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)], or **permethrin**, 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. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to 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 either draining or removing any items that collect 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.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, nausea and skin rash. More severe symptoms include high fever, disorientation, and stiff neck.

Information about WNV and reports of WNV activity in Massachusetts during 2009 can be found on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph) under A for arbovirus in the Health Topics A to Z index. Recorded information about WNV is also available by calling the MDPH Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).