

Imlay City Community Schools will conduct mosquito control spraying in response to an Eastern equine encephalitis outbreak in 19 horses in several neighboring counties. The department will use Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) spraying to control mosquitoes.

Spraying will occur the morning of Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. In the event of inclement weather, spraying will be re-scheduled for the next available Sunday Morning.

Mosquito Control personnel will use a pyrethroid-based solution that the EPA has approved for use in public health mosquito control programs without posing unreasonable risks to human health. However, out of an abundance of caution, we recommend avoiding outdoor activities during spraying. We will be closing all facilities, playgrounds, athletic fields, etc...

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), human cases of Eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE, are rare. EEE disease occurs primarily in areas close to swamps and marshes with high mosquito populations. People most at risk for developing severe disease are those over 50 and younger than age 15. EEE infection can result in one of two types of illness, systemic or encephalitic. Systemic infection has an abrupt onset and is characterized by chills, fever, malaise, arthralgia, and myalgia, lasting one to two weeks. Signs and symptoms in encephalitic patients are fever, headache, irritability, restlessness, drowsiness, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, cyanosis, convulsions, and coma. Individuals reporting these symptoms should be referred to their health care provider. Symptoms usually occur four to 10 days after exposure to a mosquito carrying the virus.

While not all mosquitoes carry these diseases, MDHHS suggests that residents take precautions to minimize their exposure to mosquito bites. These measures include:

- Wear long, loose fitting, light colored clothing
- Wear insect repellents according to product labels
- Avoid mosquito-infested areas during prime periods of activity (between dusk and dawn)
- Install, inspect, and repair window and door screens in homes and stables
- Regularly clean bird baths and bowls for pet food and water
- Remove or empty all water-holding containers

Currently there is no EEE vaccine for humans. There are, however, effective vaccines for horses. Horse owners are encouraged to vaccinate and keep current vaccinations up-to-date in consultation with their veterinarian.

For more information, you can also call the MDHHS hotline, which will now take calls for general questions about both COVID-19 and EEE at 888-535-6136. The hotline is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.