



**CITY OF PEABODY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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In past years, mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) have been detected in mosquito samples collected from Peabody.

WNV and EEE can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito, and both diseases have the potential to be very serious.

**You should not wait for an infected mosquito to be identified before starting to use precautions. Mosquitoes will be with us throughout the summer and into fall until the first frost. It is important to take a few common-sense precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones:**

#### **Avoid Mosquito Bites**

- The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.
- Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors. Make sure to follow the instructions on the product label.

#### **Mosquito-Proof Your Home and Neighborhood**

- Mosquitoes can begin to multiply in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days, so 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. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- Organize a neighborhood clean up day to pick up containers from vacant lots and parks.
- Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

The City of Peabody will be taking a number of steps this season to try to minimize the risk from mosquitoes, such as testing mosquito pools, treating catch basins to prevent eggs from hatching, and possibly conducting spraying to kill adult mosquitoes. Even though these measures are helpful in reducing mosquito populations, mosquitoes will still be with us throughout the season and it is important for residents to take the precautions described above.

Information about EEE and WNV can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>. You may also contact the Peabody Health Department at (978) 538-5926 or visit [www.peabody-ma.gov](http://www.peabody-ma.gov).