

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN HOPKINTON MOSQUITO SAMPLE; TRUCK SPRAYING TO BE ENHANCED

HOPKINTON, MA — The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Hopkinton Health Department announced today that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

The positive mosquito pool was identified through routine surveillance conducted in the northwest corner of Hopkinton, near Meadowland Drive, by MDPH and the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Program (CMMCP). To date, no human or animal cases of WNV have been identified in the Hopkinton community.

State-wide data shows significant historical virus presence. In 2025, 8,788 mosquito samples were tested across Massachusetts for WNV, and 451 samples were positive. Locally, Hopkinton had multiple WNV positive mosquito samples identified in 2025, which contributed to an elevated regional risk level late last season.

In response to this recent finding, the Hopkinton Health Department has engaged CMMCP to enhance localized truck spraying in the affected neighborhood and surrounding area to reduce adult mosquito populations. While the local health agency continues to work closely with the MDPH and other regional entities, Hopkinton is actively supplementing its response with targeted larviciding, distribution of public health fact sheets, and ongoing education programs.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

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

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Apply Insect Repellent:** When you go outdoors, use an EPA-registered repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to instructions on the 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 clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- **Clothing Can Help:** Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to keep mosquitoes away from your skin, even when the weather is hot.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours:** The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you notice mosquitoes around you, move indoors, cover up, or apply repellent immediately.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water:** Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit breeding sites around your home by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots, buckets, and wading pools, and change the water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens:** Keep mosquitoes outside by ensuring tightly-fitting screens are on all windows and doors.

Information about WNV and reports of current and historical WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito. For local spraying schedules and vector control updates, visit the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Program website at www.cmmcp.org.