

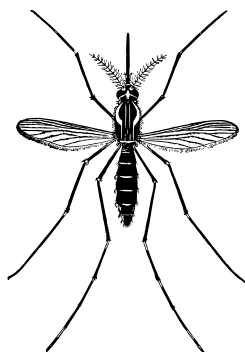
Facts about Mosquitoes

Where and When are Mosquitoes Found?

- While mosquitoes can be found at any time of day, they are most commonly active at dawn, dusk, and at night. Mosquitoes can often be found in damp shady areas, near still water and plants where they can shelter and lay their eggs.
- Most mosquitoes are active in the spring, summer, and early fall



What's the Deal With Mosquitoes?



- 51 varieties have been observed in Massachusetts, but not all feed on humans
- The female mosquito drinks blood in order to produce eggs, but males mostly consume nectar
- Mosquito bites produce itchy red bumps that can be treated with calamine lotion, hydrocortisone cream, or an ice pack
- Female mosquitoes are attracted to the carbon dioxide produced by exhalation

Why Are Mosquito Bites a Concern?

Certain species of mosquito can carry viruses that spread to humans through their bite. In Massachusetts the most common diseases caused by mosquito bites are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).



- EEE
 - Symptoms include fever, stiff neck, headache, lack of energy, and swelling of the brain, which appear 3-10 days after infection. There is currently no treatment for EEE
- WNV
 - Most will have no symptoms, however about 20% will experience fever, aches, nausea, and vomiting
 - In rare cases severe illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis will develop

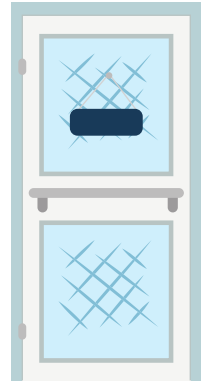


Who is Most At Risk?

- Those at the greatest risk of developing severe cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis are those over the age of 50 and those younger than 15
- While severe illness due to West Nile Virus can occur at any age, people over the age of 60 are at the greatest risk

What Can I Do to Prevent Bites?

- When going outside use insect repellents containing picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or DEET
 - Always follow instructions and use safely
- Empty out sources of still water around the house and yard such as buckets, toys, flower pots, etc.
- Inspect window and door screens for any holes or tears and repair appropriately to prevent mosquitoes from entering the home
- When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants while outside to keep mosquitos away from the skin



Additional Resources

Mosquito FAQ

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquitoes-in-massachusetts#frequently-asked-questions>

Mosquito-Borne Diseases

<https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases>

Mosquito Repellants

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mosquito-repellents>

MA Mosquito Control Board

<https://www.mass.gov/state-reclamation-and-mosquito-control-board-srmcb>

MDPH Epidemiology and Immunization

Phone: (617) 983-6800

Toll Free: (888) 658-2850