



Town of Manchester Recommends Residents Take Personal Protection Measures Against Mosquitos Until First Hard Frost of Season

Residents Are Advised To Protect Themselves and Their Children by Avoiding Outdoor Activity Between Dusk and Dawn, When Mosquitoes Are Most Active.

Manchester, CT — Following the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health’s (DPH) announcement that one mosquito found in South Windsor has tested positive for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus, the Town of Manchester is urging residents to take personal protection measures against mosquito bites. As a precaution, the Manchester Department of Leisure, Families and Recreation is cancelling town-sponsored outdoor recreation activities* (except Adult Softball), and the Board of Education has announced that all outdoor after-school activities including athletic practices will end by dusk until further notice. Manchester’s Parks and Trails will remain open to the public. Individuals and parents may use their personal discretion and choose not to participate in outdoor activities. While Town-permitted private clubs (Football, Soccer, Little League) must make their own decisions, Manchester officials underscore that anyone participating in outdoor activities should take personal protection measures.

“We continue to emphasize the need for people to protect themselves from mosquito bites,” said Manchester’s Director of Health Jeffrey Catlett, MPH, R.S. “We recommend that Manchester residents use bug spray, wear long sleeves and pants and socks to reduce exposed skin, and stay indoors between dusk and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active.”

Until the first hard frost of the fall season, mosquitoes will continue to be active. The Town is issuing the following recommendations to prevent mosquito bites:

1. If possible, stay indoors between dusk and dawn hours, the peak biting times for many mosquitoes.
2. Wear long pants and long sleeves when you go outdoors.
3. Apply bug spray with DEET or picaridin to all exposed skin.
4. Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes breed.
5. Use screens on windows and doors to keep the bugs out.

* Adult Softball leagues will not be cancelled. While personal protection measures are recommended, the adults participating in these leagues may make their own decision on whether or not to play.



6. Stay educated and informed.

According to DPH, “even though the temperatures are getting cooler, mosquitoes continue to be active until the first heavy frost and residents should continue to take measures to prevent mosquito bites. Pesticide spraying to kill adult mosquitos is unlikely to be effective at this time of year when it is cooler at night and mosquitos are less active.” As a result, the Town will not be spraying recreation fields with pesticides.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. According to DPH, “states throughout the Northeast are also experiencing an active season for EEE. In addition to the virus being found in mosquitoes, there have been a total of 10 human cases of EEE infection in Massachusetts, including two fatalities, and three human cases in Rhode Island, including 1 fatality. Although EEE-infected mosquitoes continue to be detected in the southeastern corner of Connecticut, the numbers are declining and we are not experiencing the excessively high levels of activity seen in Massachusetts.” As of today, there have been no reported cases of EEE in Manchester.

For the latest updates and to learn about how to protect yourself, residents are encouraged to visit the following Center for Disease Control and DPH websites:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/gen/pre.html>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/Mosquito>

For updates on Manchester Public Schools, please follow the Board of Education’s official Facebook Page:

- <https://www.facebook.com/mps-pride-manchester-ct-public-schools-1677756609137170>



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