

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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August Testing Reveals Five More EEE Mosquito Pools *Picente: "Finding Warrants Precautionary Spraying to Protect Public Health"*

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. has authorized aerial spraying over an approximate 30-thousand acres in the area where five more mosquito pools collected in August have tested positive for the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus as a precautionary measure to protect public health.

"Health Department officials confirm that the species of mosquito found to be infected with EEE generally feeds on birds, but prudence dictates we take every precaution to protect the public's health and safety when dealing with the potentially serious threat this disease poses to livestock and humans," Picente said. He added, *"After consulting with Dr. Gayle Jones, Director of Health, the decision has been made to effectively reduce the number of adult mosquitoes that are potential carriers of the virus."*

According to Jones, spraying will take place between the hours of 6:00 pm and the onset of darkness on Tuesday, August 24th. One application should be adequate to achieve the desired results, according to Jones.

"Spraying must take place during dry, warm and calm conditions, however," Jones said. She continued, *"If weather conditions on Tuesday appear unfavorable, the schedule for spraying will have to be pushed back."*

The pesticide to be applied by Duflo Airspray Chemical Company is *Kontrol 30-30* which contains the ingredient Permethrin and is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for this use. All spraying will be conducted in an approximately 50 square mile area within the boundaries indicated on the map (see **attached**); the spray area roughly entails acreage from the Barge Canal at Oneida Lake east to the outlying areas of the City of Rome, northwest following Rt. 69 to Taberg and then back to the Barge Canal at Oneida Lake.

The product will be applied at a very low concentration and is not expected to cause any adverse health effects. However, residents living in the spray area are advised to avoid any unnecessary exposure to the pesticide.

The Oneida County Health Department recommends the following precautions for those living in the spray area:

- Stay indoors and keep doors and windows closed during spraying. Windows can be opened one hour after spraying is completed.
- Keep pets indoors during spraying, if possible.

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- Close vents on air conditioners so that outside air does not enter the home for one hour.
- If driving through the spray area during application, close vehicle windows and vents.
- Remove outdoor toys, outdoor furniture and clothing from the clothesline. Items left outdoors should be washed thoroughly before using.
- Cover gardens or rinse homegrown fruits and vegetables before cooking or eating.

Bee keepers and organic farmers in the spray area should notify the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5064 of their location before spraying commences.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is considered among the most serious mosquito-borne viruses. Horses are susceptible to the illness which almost always proves fatal to the animal. If contracted by humans, EEE can produce symptoms ranging from a mild flu-like illness to inflammation of the brain, coma and even death in about one third of those affected.

The health department had previously reported one mosquito pool which tested positive for EEE during the second week of July. The August findings bring to six the total number of mosquito pools that tested positive for EEE in Oneida County. Neighboring Oswego County has had a number of positive findings this season and has previously conducted aerial spraying.

For additional information about aerial spraying, EEE or other mosquito-borne illnesses contact the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5064 or visit our web site at ocgov.net. Detailed product information on *Kontrol 30-30* can be found by clicking onto the link <http://masterline.com/> on our website.

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