

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adirondack Bank Building, 5th Floor, 185 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13501

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GAYLE D. JONES, PHD, MPH, CHES
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

ADMINISTRATION

Phone: (315) 798-6400 ☎ Fax: (315) 266-6138

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ken Fanelli, PIO
798-5099

EEE Again Detected in Oneida County *"Infected Pool Discovered in Spray Area"*

A pool of mosquitoes collected in a part of western Oneida County that was the site of last month's aerial spraying has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Health Department officials confirmed today.

"This is the seventh positive mosquito pool detected in Oneida County since July," Dan Gilmore, Director of Environmental Health said. Gilmore continued, *"The number of infected mosquitoes has been reduced since the spraying of nearly 27,000 acres of land in western Oneida County, but it is evident that the EEE virus is still circulating."*

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE as it is commonly known, is extremely rare in humans, but could result in serious illness or even death if contracted. The disease is always fatal in horses. Onondaga County reported a human case of EEE about a week ago that resulted in the death of the patient. The virus has also been detected in mosquito pools collected in Oswego, Madison and Onondaga counties this summer.

"People should keep in mind that the species of mosquito found to be infected with EEE is one that generally feeds on birds, but should exercise due diligence when outdoors," Gilmore said. He suggests:

- *Use an insect repellent containing DEET.*
- *Wear long sleeves and pants covering as much skin as possible.*
- *Eliminate breeding sites around your home by removing 'standing water' such as wading pools, bird baths, buckets, etc.*
- *Limit outdoor activity during times when mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn.*

Gilmore stressed that this finding should not alarm people living in communities that have seen a 'late summer' surge in mosquito populations.

"People living in Whitesboro, Marcy, Oriskany and other communities should understand that EEE has never been detected further east than the western-most boundaries of the City of Rome and that none of the specimens collected in their communities have tested positive for any mosquito-borne virus," Gilmore said.

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