

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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EEE Detected in Oneida County

One pool of mosquitoes collected in the western region of Oneida County has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Health Department officials confirmed today.

“This is the first positive EEE mosquito pool detected in Oneida County this year.” Dan Gilmore, Director of Environmental Health said. Gilmore continued, *“Earlier this summer we had one West Nile Virus (WNV) positive pool of mosquitoes.”*

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. The virus has also been detected in mosquito pools collected in Oswego, Madison and Onondaga counties this summer.

Mosquito surveillance in Oneida County will continue into September. Populations will be monitored for EEE and WNV. No pesticide application is currently planned as a result at this time.

“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, and follow the package directions.*
- *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.*

For more information on EEE please visit the CDC:

<http://www.cdc.gov/EasternEquineEncephalitis/index.html>