

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Boxborough, Massachusetts. In 2024, 8,597 mosquito samples were tested for WNV and 333 samples were positive. Boxborough had 0 WNV positive mosquito samples identified in 2024.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

The Board of Health continues to work closely with the MDPH and the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project to provide education on how residents can protect themselves from mosquitoes and mitigate the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases.

Information about WNV and reports of current and historical WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at: www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito.

STREETS
BURROUGHS ROAD
CHESTER ROAD
COOLIDGE FARM ROAD
FIFERS LANE
HAGER LANE
MAYFAIR DRIVE
MEADOW LANE
MORSE LANE
OLD HARVARD ROAD
PIERCE LANE
PRIEST LANE
ROBINSON ROAD
STOW ROAD
TAMARACK LANE
WHITNEY LANE

CMMP (2025)
Select features of this map courtesy of:
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Information Technology Division

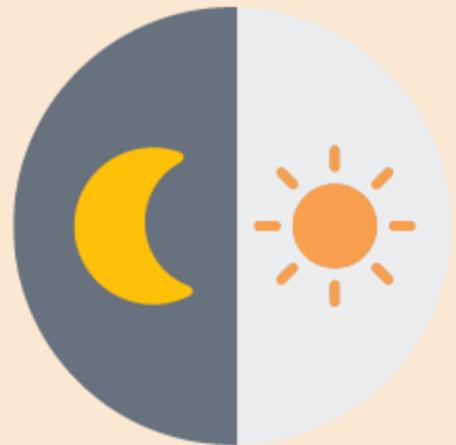
Proposed Streets Treated Selection

BOXBOROUGH

STOW

PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

USE THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM MOSQUITO BITES!



Use insect repellent
(DEET, picaridin)

Wear long-sleeved
clothing

Avoid outside hours
from dusk to dawn



Remove standing
water

Repair window and
door screens

Make your aroma
less appealing

For more information, visit:

www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-borne-disease-prevention