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TO: Local Cities and Towns that have been formally categorized as at high risk for  
EEE by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
(Please refer to DPH for the latest list of these communities)

FROM: John Auerbach  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus in southeastern Massachusetts

DATE: July 27, 2010

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**The risk of human disease due to arbovirus infection, specifically eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) is elevated this year in southeastern Massachusetts.** This determination of risk is based on early findings of positive mosquito samples, current weather patterns, and early spillover of the virus into a mammal (horse). Taken together, these factors indicate that we are likely to see human cases. The risk is most elevated in those communities in the vicinity of identified EEE-positive mosquito pools and/or animals.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has identified several cities and towns that have been formally categorized as at high risk for EEE. For these communities a number of action steps are strongly recommended. These include the following:

- \*Do not hold public outdoor activities at dusk or dawn and discourage members of the public from holding such events
- \*Educate the residents of your community about the actions steps they can take to prevent EEE infection, especially the importance of wearing mosquito repellent
- \*Takes steps to reduce the number of mosquitoes through the use of ground spraying and the reduction of settings were mosquitoes may breed

Information on West Nile Virus (WNV) and EEE virus testing in birds, mosquitoes, horses, and humans is available on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) arbovirus website at [www.mass.gov/dph/wnv](http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv). For questions about WNV and EEE, including general information, personal protection, and reporting of suspected human cases, call the MDPH Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800 or 1-888-658-2850.

**Cities and Town EEE Risk Assessment as of 7/27/10**

**NOTE: This assessment will be updated regularly and should be reconfirmed with the Department**

- 17 communities are **High Risk**: Acushnet, Berkley, Bridgewater, Carver, Duxbury, Fairhaven, Freetown, Halifax, Kingston, Lakeville Mattapoisett, Middleboro, New Bedford, Plympton, Raynham, Rochester, Taunton
- 14 communities are **Moderate Risk**: Dartmouth, Dighton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Fall River, Hanson, Marion, Marshfield, Norton, Pembroke, Plymouth, Somerset, Wareham, West Bridgewater