

On September 12, 2017 Massachusetts Department of Public Health notified the Millis Health Department that during routine testing, a mosquito found in Millis tested positive for West Nile Virus.

It is not unusual for West Nile Virus to be found in Norfolk County or Millis this time of year. We do however urge residents to take common sense precautions to prevent mosquito bites:

- Avoid outdoor activities during the peak hours of mosquito activity; generally between dusk and dawn.
- Wear long sleeve jerseys, long pants and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitos away from skin.
- Use a repellent containing up to 30% DEET, permethrin or picaridin which provide protection against mosquitoes. Permethrin products should not be applied directly to the skin, but only used on clothing.
- Drain all standing water. Birdbaths, buckets/pails, wheelbarrows and children's inflatable pools all provide ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus.
- Keep mosquitos outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

The Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project has suspended all truck-mounted spraying for the season due to cooler evening temperatures, which reduces mosquito activity significantly. It is expected that no additional spraying will be conducted unless the virus activity level changes considerably.

The Millis Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will continue to closely monitor mosquito/virus activity in the town to ensure residents are provided with up to date information.

If residents have any questions, you may contact the Millis Health Department office @ 508-376-7042.

Barbara Thissell  
Millis Health Director