

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3255 – 122nd Ave., Suite 200, Allegan, MI 49010

Office Administration

(269) 673-5411 Fax (269) 673-4172

Bioterrorism Preparedness

(269) 673-5411

Personal Health

(269) 673-5411



Communicable Disease

(269) 673-5411

Environmental Health

(269) 673-5415

Resource Recovery

(269) 673-5415

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Lindsay Maunz, MPH, CHES®, CPH

Public Information Officer

(269) 673-5411

лмаунз@allegancounty.org

Allegan County Health Department Encourages Mosquito Bite Protection

(Allegan, MI)— On September 17, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a press release regarding the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cases in Southwest Michigan. As of 9:30am on September 19, Allegan County has not had any reported nor confirmed cases of EEE in humans or horses. However, we strongly encourage residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from mosquito bites.

The Allegan County Health Department wants to remind residents that infections can happen, even when mosquito bite numbers are low. As fall approaches, mosquitoes stay active until the first hard frost of the year.

Avoid mosquito bites and the diseases they carry with these steps:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registered product to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer's directions for use
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors and apply insect repellent to clothing
- Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas

EEE is a dangerous mosquito-borne disease. Persons younger than age 15 and over age 50 are at greatest risk of severe disease if infected. Signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills, body and joint aches that can progress to a severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. Permanent brain damage, coma and death may also occur in some cases. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should visit their physician's office.

For more information on EEE and other mosquito-borne diseases, visit www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

- [MDHHS EEE Press Release](#)
- [MDHHS Weekly Arbovirus Summary as of 9.17.19](#)
- [Allegan County Fight The Bite: Mosquito Bite Prevention and Awareness](#)

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