



TOWN OF WELLESLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Wellesley Among Communities Impacted by Additional Aerial Mosquito Spraying Announced by State Officials *Health Department Continues to Urge Residents to Protect Against Mosquitoes*

Sept. 10, 2019 (Wellesley, MA) – An additional, more wide-spread round of aerial spraying for mosquitoes that was announced by State officials today will impact areas of the Town of Wellesley. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) will be spraying the pesticide Anvil 10+10 in areas at critical and high risk levels for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) beginning tonight, September 10, and continuing into next week.

While the Town of Wellesley remains at a low risk level for EEE, a portion of the Town is located in the defined spray path and will be sprayed at night, between the hours of 7:15 p.m. and 4:30 a.m., sometime within the next five to six days. The specific areas impacted will be in the 02482 zip code and the western edge of the 02481 zip code. Morses Pond and Lake Waban, both open bodies of water, will be excluded from spraying as will Fuller Brook and other tributary streams.

A [detailed map](#) of the planned spray areas is available online from MDAR. This map will be updated daily every afternoon following the night spraying. While the spraying is weather and equipment dependent, favorable weather conditions expected this week should permit the application.

Residents with specific questions and concerns about EEE and aerial spraying should contact the MDPH 24-hour hot line at **617-983-6800**.

Anvil 10+10 is a product extensively tested and used in both ground-level and aerial spraying in the United States to effectively control mosquitoes. Extensive information about this product and answers to frequently asked questions about aerial spraying and recommended precautions are available on the [MDPH website](#).

“Due to Wellesley’s proximity to communities at high and critical risk levels, today we were informed by State officials that portions of Wellesley would be included in the planned spray areas. In light of these new developments, we’re doing everything we can at the local level to provide accurate, up-to-date information to reassure Wellesley residents,” said Health Department Director Lenny Izzo. “It’s critical to remember that the mosquito season is far from over and residents need to continue to take steps to avoid bites by limiting outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity times from dusk to dawn, applying insect repellent when outdoors, and wearing clothing to help reduce mosquito bites.”

Wellesley Public Schools has already adjusted outdoor sports schedules and activities to make sure they end by 6 p.m. and the district continues to work with neighboring communities to reschedule any away games if needed.

The Recreation Department has also adjusted schedules for outdoor lessons and classes. While Town playing fields remain open, club and private athletic organizations are encouraged to consider adjusting team schedules.

To date, seven human cases of EEE in the Commonwealth have been confirmed by MDPH this year.

Mosquito Protection Information

Individuals have an important role in protecting themselves, their families and their pets from mosquito-borne illnesses such as EEE and West Nile Virus (WNV). Use this [handout from MDPH](#) to stay safe.

Common sense steps to follow in areas where aerial spraying is scheduled to take place include:

- Keep windows closed and fans off. Shut off air conditioners unless they have a setting for recirculating indoor air
- Rinse any homegrown fruits and vegetables with water.
- Keep pets indoors during spraying to minimize their risk of exposure. Pets that remain outdoors could be exposed to small amounts of Anvil 10+10, but would not be expected to experience adverse health effects from the spraying. There are many pesticide products (e.g., flea collars, pet shampoo, dips) containing the same ingredients as Anvil 10+10 that are used directly on pets to control ticks and insects.
- If skin or clothes or other items are exposed to the sprayed pesticide, wash with soap and water.
- If the spray gets in your eyes, immediately rinse them with water or eye drops, and call your doctor.

The Wellesley Health Department continues to monitor mosquito activity in the community and maintain daily communication with East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) and MDPH. Updated information specific to Wellesley is available on these websites:

Town of Wellesley www.wellesleyma.gov

Wellesley Health Department www.wellesleyma.gov/health

Wellesley Public Schools <https://wellesleyps.org/>

The Swellesley Report <https://theswellesleyreport.com/>

Wellesley Townsman online (Wicked Local Wellesley) <https://wellesley.wickedlocal.com/>

Additional Resources

Additional resources for residents may be found online:

EEE Website from MDPH - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts>

Arbovirus Report with Maps of EEE and WNV Risk Area - <http://www.mosquitoreports.com/>

Fact Sheet about EEE - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eee-eastern-equine-encephalitis>

Information on Anvil 10+10 (sumithrin or d-phenothrin)

<https://www.cmmcp.org/pesticide-information/pages/anvil-1010-sumithrin-or-d-phenothrin>

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