

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lenawee County Health Department Encourages Mosquito Bite Prevention

September 27, 2019

(Adrian, MI) The Lenawee County Health Department continues to encourage residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites as nine cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been confirmed in residents of Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren counties, including three deaths.

As of Sept. 27, 2019, EEE has been confirmed in 27 animals in 13 counties: Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Genesee, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Montcalm, Newaygo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren. An EEE vaccine is available for horses, but not for people.

To date, there have been no confirmed cases of EEE in Lenawee County; however residents are encouraged to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Residents can follow these steps to protect themselves from being bitten by mosquitoes:

- 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. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- 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.

Residents are encouraged to be particularly cautious during outdoor activities occurring at or after dusk, including sporting events. These precautions should be followed until the first hard frost of the year.

EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, with a 33 percent fatality rate in people who become ill. People can be infected with EEE from the bite of

a mosquito carrying the viruses. Persons younger than age 15 and over age 50 are at greatest risk of severe disease following infection.

Signs of EEE include the sudden onset of fever, chills, body and joint aches which 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.

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

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