



TOWN OF LINCOLN

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OFFICES
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Lincoln Board of Health Mosquito-borne Disease Update September 11, 2019

The Lincoln Board of Health has continued to monitor the risk level for mosquito-borne diseases (Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, EEE and WNV respectively). There have been NO positive mosquito tests and no human cases of WNV or EEE in Lincoln this season. However, there have been several human cases statewide, including one recent case in the neighboring Town of Sudbury, and positive mosquito tests in Sudbury and Bedford. Town Officials have been and remain in contact with our counterparts in neighboring Towns, and with officials at the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). At this time, Lincoln has been assigned a “moderate” risk level for EEE and WNV.

At a Board of Health meeting last night attended by the three Board members, Becky McFall, Superintendent, Susan Rask, Concord Health Director, and Tim Higgins, Town Administrator, there was a discussion concerning the pros and cons of targeted spraying in Lincoln to control the mosquito population. After some discussion for and against targeted spraying, the Board of Health with a unanimous vote approved targeted spraying to areas of vegetation on the borders of the school property and playing fields at Ballfield Road, Town Offices and Wang fields along with Pierce Park. Spraying will not be applied to open flat areas or on the playing fields. The spraying will be carried out by the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, using backpack spraying, applying the same material that was approved by the L-S School Department for its campus. The Board members stated that they thought this approach was a fairly modest intervention to minimize the risk of exposure to EEE and WNV. The spraying will be carried out next week. The Board also supported the proposal to curtail evening sports and other outside activities from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Information about mosquito activity in Massachusetts, and precautionary measures that can be taken can be found on the Mosquito-borne Disease page on the MDPH website at <https://mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases> and on the Town website at <https://lincolntown.org>. Questions regarding the Town’s risk level and response planning may be referred to the Board of Health at 781-259-2614. We will continue to coordinate with our local and State partners and provide updates as they become available.

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