

Good Afternoon,

Today, Saturday July 31, Governor Patrick, DPH Commissioner John Auerbach, and other officials held a press conference at the State House in Boston to announce that the Commonwealth has begun the process of preparing for aerial spraying to control mosquitoes as a means of preventing the spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in southeastern Massachusetts.

At the present time the target communities for the spraying are:

ALL or almost all (11):

- Bridgewater
- Halifax
- Pembroke
- Duxbury
- Kingston
- Plympton
- Middleborough
- Lakeville
- Raynham
- Rochester
- Acushnet

HALF or MORE (5)

- East Bridgewater
- Hanson
- Carver
- Mattapoisett
- New Bedford

SOME (10)

- Marion
- Fairhaven
- Dartmouth
- Freetown
- Berkley
- Taunton
- Easton
- West Bridgewater
- Plymouth
- Wareham

(Border communities: Marshfield, Norwell, Hanover, Whitman, Norton)

Local Health Departments should continue to advise the public that ground and aerial spraying will not provide absolute protection against mosquito borne illness. Everyone venturing out in communities deemed at high or moderate risk for EEE should continue to take necessary

precautions as a protection against mosquitoes, including wearing protective clothing and using mosquito repellent containing DEET. These precautions are particularly important during the hours around dawn and dusk when mosquito activity is greatest.

DPH is preparing additional resources to answer questions from the public, including the 211 information line. LBOH who have questions or comments about the plans for spraying or other aspects of the EEE response may contact me directly at this address or by calling the numbers below.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the public against mosquito borne illness.

Michael Coughlin, MS
Local Public Health Manager
Bureau of Emergency Preparedness
MDPH