

Eastern Equine Encephalitis – Estimated Risk Map

EEE/West Nile Virus Information Line: 800-913-1139

This Risk Map provides only an *estimate* of the areas that are at increased risk for Eastern equine encephalitis activity in 2014.

The initial map of June 20, 2014, is based on EEE activity detected in 2012 and 2013. The map will be regularly reviewed, and if the results of this year's mosquito surveillance indicate a change in the area of risk or the level of risk, the map will be updated.

Understanding the Estimated Risk Map and Risk Levels

- Risk levels are outlined in the risk assessment chart: [EEE Risk Levels & Recommended Personal Protection Measures](#).
- EEE virus tends to recur in the same area from one year to the next. Therefore, areas that had activity last year begin the season at higher risk than other areas.
- Risk assessment depends on having mosquito surveillance data available. At this time, the map only includes the region where mosquito surveillance occurred last year. Currently, this region is the only part of the state where mosquito surveillance is planned for 2013. Surveillance may be expanded to other regions if resources allow.
- The extent of the designated risk area shown is determined by proximity to a wetland where EEE virus has been detected in mosquitoes.
- There is some evidence that most human illness occurs within five miles of a wetland where the mosquitoes responsible for amplifying the virus are breeding. Because the five miles is just an estimate, an additional five mile "caution" area is indicated on the map. **People who spend time in the "caution" areas should take the same precautions as those in the designated risk area.**
- The risk area has also been adjusted to account for the Green Mountains since it is unlikely that mosquitoes would make it over the mountain range.

Risk of Illness

- Although mosquitoes are active in the spring, the risk for mosquito-borne illness occurs in July through October, with most illnesses occurring in August and September.
- The risk for EEE virus in the rest of the state is presently unknown. A research study done on deer and moose demonstrated that the virus is widely distributed throughout the state. However, it is not clear what this means for the risk of illness in people.
- All Vermonters should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

For more information, including what you can do to prevent mosquito bites, go to healthvermont.gov.