



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Matt Johnson, Public Information Officer
pio@kalcounty.com
269-373-5271 or 269-373-5270

Update on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Aerial Spraying Activity in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is confirming that there will be no aerial treatment spraying of insecticide this evening, September 29, 2019, in Kalamazoo County. County residents may see a plane flying over their properties due to neighboring counties being treated this evening.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) notified Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department that the number of resident opt-out notifications received by MDHHS comprises a large enough geographic distribution in which aerial spraying would no longer be an effective measure to reduce adult mosquito populations in the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. Therefore, aerial spraying will not be performed in the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage as part of the regional and state response to the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) outbreak.

Aerial spraying may proceed in other parts of Kalamazoo County based on the distribution of known human and animal cases and where the resident opt-out frequency does not reduce effectiveness of the spraying. MDHHS will update Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, along with other county health departments, daily with the aerial treatment schedule for the evening. Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will continue to communicate to residents that schedule.

On September 28, 2019, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department received notification of a deer positive for EEE in Kalamazoo County found ill on September 23, 2019. This means the deer was likely exposed to EEE during the month of September. The total human cases of EEE in Kalamazoo County remains three, including one fatality. The additional deer case raises the total animal EEE infections in Kalamazoo County to seven. The risk of EEE infection in Kalamazoo County remains ongoing until the first hard frost.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department continues to remind Kalamazoo County residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites. The best way to prevent EEE or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Avoid outdoor activities from dusk until dawn (7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) when mosquitos that carry EEE virus are most active. If outdoor activities are necessary, please take the following precautions:

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

311 E. Alcott St. | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269.373.5200 | www.kalcounty.com/hcs

- Apply EPA registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol, and 2-undecanone; follow the product label instructions and reapply as directed.
 - Don't use repellent on children under 2 months old. Instead dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs and cover crib, stroller and baby carrier with mosquito netting.
- Wear shoes and socks, light-colored long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings.
- Use bed nets when sleeping outdoors or in conditions with no window screens.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding around your home, including water in bird baths, abandoned swimming pools, wading pools, old tires and any other object holding water once a week.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas

Signs of EEE infection 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. Anyone who thinks they may be experiencing these symptoms should contact a medical provider. Permanent brain damage, coma and death may also occur in some cases.

On September 27, 2019, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, along with thirteen other county health departments, endorsed the strong recommendation from MDHHS to perform aerial spraying of insecticide to reduce adult mosquito populations given the ongoing risk of EEE infection in Kalamazoo County.

More information about aerial treatment spraying, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, are available at www.michigan.gov/EEE. Residents can also call MDHHS toxicology line at 1-517-335-8165 with questions regarding the insecticide being used to decrease the public health risk for EEE, Merus 3.0.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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