



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2019

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Kalamazoo County and Local Cities Working to Reduce EEE Exposure Risk for Vulnerable Residents

KALAMAZOO, MI – Kalamazoo County Government, along with the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, are working with local community organizations to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitos that carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) for vulnerable residents in Kalamazoo County.

Collectively, Kalamazoo County Government, the City of Kalamazoo, and the City of Portage have secured approximately 400-500 containers of insect repellent containing DEET. These containers will be made available at homeless shelters and senior centers throughout the county. Additionally, containers will be available at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department as well as the City of Kalamazoo Office.

“We are offering these bottles of insect repellent in an effort to provide protection against mosquito bites for those individuals and families that are otherwise unable to reduce their exposure to EEE because they cannot acquire these resources,” said James Rutherford, Health Officer Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services.

County Residents who are in need of insect repellent can receive these products free of charge at the following locations and times found on page 3. Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (formerly Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) began distribution of personal mosquito repellent to unhoused persons at locations known to be camping sites in Kalamazoo County on Saturday, September 29. This scattered site distribution will continue by Integrated Services of Kalamazoo as long as the threat of EEE is present and active in Kalamazoo County.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department continues to urge Kalamazoo County residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites due to the ongoing health risk of exposure to EEE. Although temperatures have slightly dropped in the area, residents should continue taking the preventative measures to protect themselves until the first hard frost decreases the mosquito population in Kalamazoo County.

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

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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dusk until dawn (7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.) when mosquitos that carry EEE virus are most active. If outdoor activities are necessary, please take the following precautions:

- 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

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) reported that as of October 2, 2019, EEE has been confirmed in nine people, with four fatalities. Cases are in Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. In addition, cases have occurred in 33 animals from 15 counties: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Genesee, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Livingston, Montcalm, Newaygo, St. Joseph and Van Buren. The mosquitos that spread EEE are still active and were caught in traps set on October 1, 2019 within southwest Michigan.

To help combat this deadly disease, the state is providing aerial treatment in areas of risk. MDHHS reports that as of October 1, 2019, about 86,016 acres were treated, bringing the total treated acreage to 186,146. Areas completed as of October 1 are identified on the [Area Treatment Zones Map](#). Areas not yet completed will be included in future schedules.

More information about EEE are available at www.michigan.gov/EEE.

Agency	Address	City	Ph #	Hours of Operation
<i>Homeless Shelters</i>				
Open Door Shelter for Men	416 Ranney St.	Kalamazoo	345-1431	24 hr
Kzoo Gospel Mission	448 N. Burdick	Kalamazoo	345-2974	8:30 am-5:00 pm
Ministry with Community	500 N. Edwards	Kalamazoo	343-6073	Sun-Sat 7:00am-5:30 pm
Open Door Shelter for Women	1215 W. North St	Kalamazoo	349-2119	24 hr
<i>Senior Centers</i>				
Ecumenical Sr. Center	702 N. Burdick	Kalamazoo	381-9750	M-F 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Senior Services	918 Jasper	Kalamazoo	382-0515	M-F 8:30 am-5:00 pm
South County Community Services	606 Spruce St.	Vicksburg	649-2901	M-F 9:00 am-5:00 pm
<i>Mental Health Services</i>				
Rickman House	345 N. Burdick	Kalamazoo	903-2885	
Interact of Michigan	610 S. Burdick	Kalamazoo	381-3700	8:00 am -5:00 pm
<i>Municipalities</i>				
Kalamazoo County HCS	311 E. Alcott	Kalamazoo	373-5200	8:00 am -5:00 pm
City of Kalamazoo	241 West South St.	Kalamazoo		8:00 am -5:00 pm
Portage Community Center	325 E. Centre Ave.	Portage	323-1942	9:00 am -5:00 pm

Press release 8 of 8 issued by HCS regarding EEE.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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