

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network
Health.Alert@nh.gov
September 25, 1500 EDT (3:00 PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20180925



Arboviral Illness Update: Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Identified in Mosquitos in Newton and Sandown

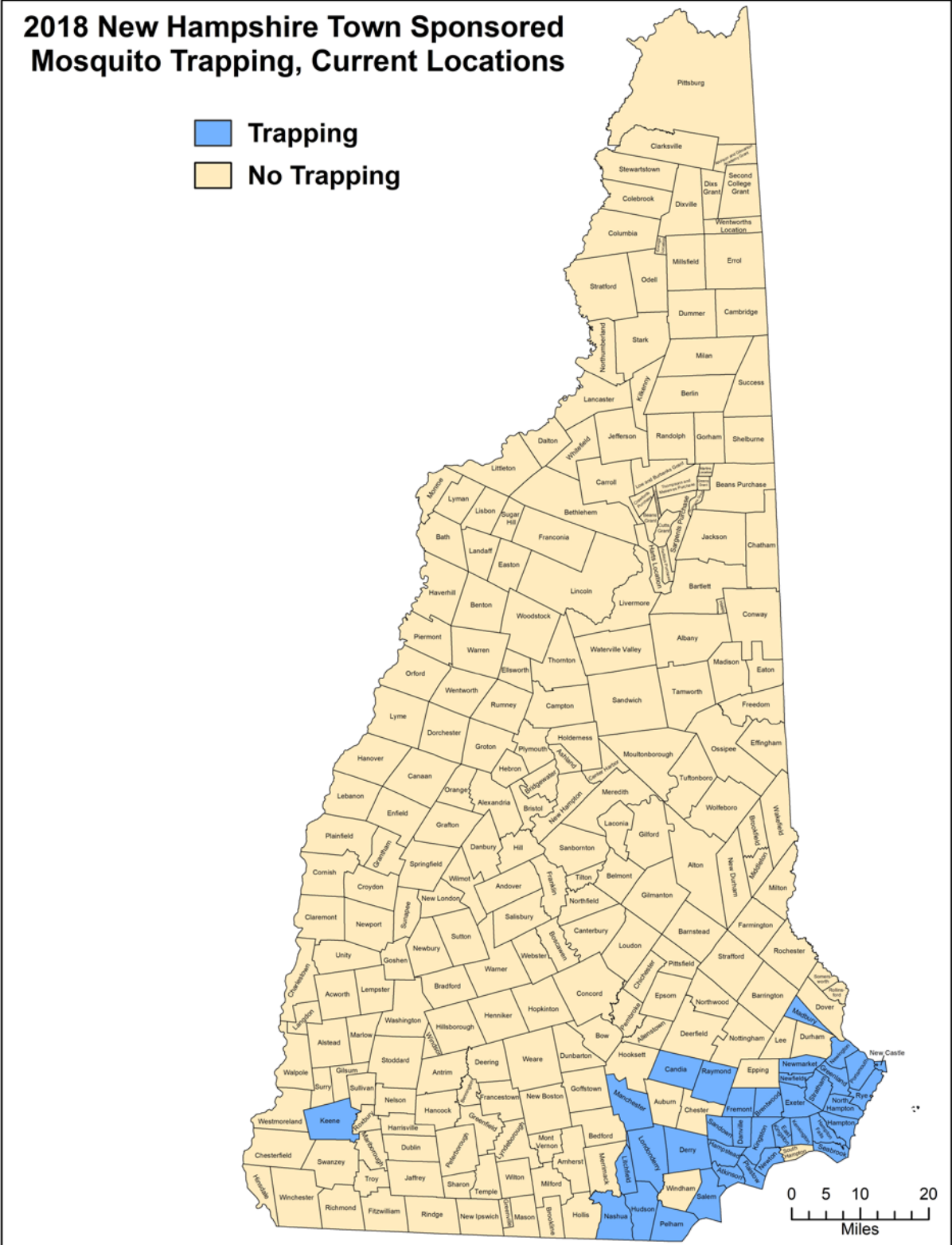
Key Points and Recommendations:

1. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been detected for the first time this season in New Hampshire in mosquitos from Newton and Sandown.
2. Identification of WNV and EEE in mosquitos highlights the importance of continuing to counsel patients about the importance of preventing mosquito bites; mosquitos do not die until there are two hard frosts.
3. Healthcare providers should consider testing patients for mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV), EEE and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) in patients presenting with compatible clinical syndromes.
4. For more information about these mosquito-borne diseases in New Hampshire, please review our HAN that was issued at the start of the season:
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/mosquito-2018.pdf>
5. Laboratory testing for mosquito-borne diseases can be arranged by calling 603-271-4496 during business hours (1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300 after hours). Testing information is also available at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/lab/documents/labrequisition.pdf>.
6. Healthcare providers should report suspected and confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

Background

From the beginning of July through mid-October, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) supports local communities to trap and test mosquitos for WNV and EEE to help determine if these viruses are circulating in local mosquito populations; testing of mosquitos for JCV is not currently performed in NH. NH DHHS has identified the first EEE-positive mosquitos this season from Newton, NH (on September 13, 2018) and Sandown, NH (on September 18, 2018). The NH Public Health Laboratories has also identified WNV in 29 mosquito batches from various towns. For more information about mosquito testing and locations of mosquito batches that have tested positive, please visit our website at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/results.htm>.

Mosquito trapping and testing occurs at limited sites in the southern part of NH (see map). Even if mosquito testing is not performed in your community, WNV, EEE, and JCV could potentially be circulating. There have been detections of WNV and EEE throughout NH in prior years, including areas outside of where mosquito surveillance is currently focused. Healthcare providers should consider testing patients for mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV, EEE, and JCV in patients who present with compatible clinical syndromes. Identification of WNV and EEE in mosquitos highlights the importance of continuing to counsel patients about the importance of preventing mosquito bites. Mosquitos are flying and seeking blood meals until here are two hard frosts, and until that time, risk of mosquito-borne disease will continue to increase.



**NH DHHS-DPHS
NH-HAN #20180925 Arboviral Illness Update**

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Adnela Alic at 603-271-7499 or email adnela.alic@dhhs.nh.gov.

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20180925 Arboviral Illness Update
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Distribution Method: Email, Fax
Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Network, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, New Hampshire Health Officers and Deputy Health Officers, MMRS, MRC, and Zoonotic Alert Team
From: Dr. Benjamin Chan, MD, MPH – State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Follow us on Twitter @NHIDWatch