

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aerial spraying being conducted in 14 counties, including Allegan to fight Mosquito-borne Disease

(Allegan, MI)— As of September 27, there have been nine human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) within six counties in Michigan. EEE has been identified in 27 animals in 13 different counties. As of September 27, Allegan County has not had any reported or confirmed cases of EEE in humans or animals. However, recently a deer was identified with EEE in Barry County, close to the Allegan County border.

Due to the large geographic distribution and number of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cases in humans and animals, coupled with warm weather projections, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommended further action with aerial pesticide spraying to reduce the number of infected mosquitoes in high-risk areas. Twelve local health departments have authorized the aerial spraying in high-risk areas to further fight the spread of EEE.

Spraying will occur in the following 14 counties: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Montcalm, Newaygo, St. Joseph and Van Buren. Areas are currently being sprayed are within an approximate 2 to 3-mile radius of a case. Because of the deer case identified in an adjacent county, a portion of Allegan County is included. For up-to-date application area information, visit www.michigan.gov/EEE

Spraying is scheduled take place starting Sunday, Sept. 29 starting at 8 p.m. However, the ability to spray is weather dependent and the schedule may change.

Aerial spraying is conducted by low-flying aircraft similar to crop dusting, beginning in the early evening and continuing up until 4:30 a.m. the next morning, in areas of concern. Mosquito control professionals will apply approved pesticides as an ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay suspended in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact. This is a tactic other states, including Massachusetts and Rhode Island, have recently employed to combat EEE.

The product being used is called Merus 3.0. It is an EPA-registered, organic botanical adult mosquito insecticide

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containing five percent pyrethrins, which are naturally found in chrysanthemum flowers. Merus 3.0 can be used around organic crops and gardens. In general, health risks are not expected during or after spraying. No special precautions are recommended; however, residents and individuals who have known sensitivities to pyrethrins can reduce potential for exposure by staying indoors during spraying. Aerial spraying is not expected to have any impacts on surface water or drinking water.

Although the aerial spray is considered necessary to reduce human risk, it will not eliminate it. Residents must continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Residents are encouraged to visit www.Michigan.gov/EEE for up-to-date information. Additional information to answer frequently asked questions regarding the EEE response can be found at: [MDHHS EEE Response Frequently Asked Questions](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS:

- [MDHHS Weekly Arbovirus Summary as of 9.26.19](#)
- [Allegan County Fight The Bite: Mosquito Bite Prevention and Awareness](#)

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