

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL

2019 END OF SEASON UPDATE

The mosquito season began with wet and cold weather and ended much drier. The lack of rain in September may have helped New Hampshire avoid a human EEE human case. Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus activity was detected in Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties this year. The incidence of EEE follows a cyclical pattern. Most years, an average of seven human cases are reported in the US, but every 10-20 years the number of annual cases increase for a few years in a row. To date, 2019 has had 35 cases reported in 9 states with 13 deaths. Many of these cases occurred in Massachusetts.

Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) is a disease carried by mosquitoes that circulates primarily between deer and a variety of mosquito species. JCV was detected in two New Hampshire residents in 2019. A man from Kingston tested positive for both JCV and Powassan virus (POW) with onset in late May. A second individual, this one from Laconia, tested positive with onset in mid-September. JCV detection in humans has been increasing over the last several years. New Hampshire has identified eight cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus since 2013 including the death of a Derry man. The State Lab currently doesn't test mosquitoes for JCV.

Powassan Virus infection is similar to mosquito-borne viruses like JCV, West Nile Virus and EEE, but is transmitted to people by infected ticks. POW is spread by black-legged (deer) ticks, the same ticks that can spread Lyme disease. A tick needs to be attached to a person for only 15 minutes to transmit Powassan Virus. There have been four human cases in New Hampshire since 2013.

In early October, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reminded us that humans and animals in New Hampshire are at risk for three mosquito-borne diseases: EEE, West Nile Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus. DHHS also reported that only 37 municipalities are monitoring mosquitoes in their communities which leaves us with an incomplete picture of the risk of mosquito borne disease in the state. These municipalities are funding the only mosquito surveillance in NH. Residents would have no advance notice of mosquito borne disease without this local surveillance. The most recent Arboviral Bulletin is attached showing New Hampshire's disease test results for this season.

Spraying, trapping and testing for mosquito borne disease has ended in NH. As the numbers of mosquitoes continue to dwindle, Dragon can focus on the tasks needed to close out the 2019 season. We are taking a well earned vacation and when we return, we'll begin preparing for 2020. While how much disease we see depends on many factors, the amount of precipitation we receive over the next year plays an important role in mosquito populations. So, we'll monitor the weather and the mosquitoes and be ready for whatever next season brings.

Enjoy your fall and winter activities. Remember that ticks are active in the fall and they remain active throughout the winter if the temperatures are above freezing, and the ground is not covered by snow. If you are traveling somewhere warm and wonderful, look into the mosquito disease risk in the areas you plan to visit.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Eddins-Wiggin, Vice President
Dragon Mosquito Control
www.dragonmosquito.com