



## Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones from Mosquitoes

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**TOWN: Devens**

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With the unprecedented wet weather this summer, combined with the warm temperatures, we are seeing more mosquitoes earlier in the season than normal. As you may know, mosquitoes can carry viruses. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) risk level for mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the Devens region is "Remote" (the lowest threat level) but residents and businesses should still be proactive and take the following measures when enjoying the outdoors:

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

There are steps you can take on your own property as well to help Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Devens continues to participate in the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) and they **will be in Devens on August 16, 23, and 30<sup>th</sup> to conduct mosquito monitoring and management to help reduce potential mosquito breeding. Requests for service may be made by calling the CMMCP office at (508) 393-3055 between 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday, or logging on to <http://www.cmmcp.org>.** Results of these requests may initiate an application of mosquito insecticides to defined, site-specific areas of Devens. If you would like your property excluded from any potential applications, please visit : <http://www.cmmcp.org> and click the "No Spray Info" button on the right.

For more information on Mosquitoes, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mosquito-borne-disease-prevention#about-mosquitoes->