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INFORMATION RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 7.12.2023

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Barry County and Bay County

Michiganders should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

Recently, District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) was informed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that a mosquito carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) was identified in Bay County and Barry County. Mosquitoes are carriers of many diseases, like EEE, and can infect humans.

The EEE virus is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Human cases of EEE are rare but can cause serious illness. The best way Michiganders to protect themselves from EEE is to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

“People should protect themselves from mosquito bites, even during cooler months, to prevent the spread of diseases such as EEE”, said DHD2 Health Officer, Denise Bryan. Residents can stay healthy by using simple, effective strategies to protect themselves:

- Proper use of insect repellent. The US Environmental Protection Agency suggests using a repellent with one of the following active ingredients; DEET, Picaridin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Para-Menthane-Diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. Follow the instructions on the product label and reapply as directed.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires, or similar sites where mosquitoes lay eggs.

To learn more about EEE and how to protect yourself, please visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website at [Michigan.gov/EEE](https://www.michigan.gov/EEE).

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