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HORSES IDENTIFIED WITH EEE IN SUFFOLK

The third and fourth cases of horses with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been identified this year in Suffolk. In both cases, each horse was not up-to-date on vaccinations and each was euthanized. Suffolk Mosquito Control strongly urges horse owners to vaccinate their horses for EEE and any other insect transmitted diseases that could affect their animals. It is very important vaccinations are administered by a licensed veterinarian for horses during mosquito season including vaccinations for EEE and West Nile Virus.

There is no human vaccine for EEE or West Nile Virus. The Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Mosquito Control encourage citizens to protect themselves from excessive mosquito bites while outdoors by following these recommendations:

- Remain indoors during times of greatest mosquito activity
 - (1 hour before dusk to 1 hour before dawn)
- Wear loose, long, and light-colored clothing when outdoors
- Use insect repellants containing DEET according to the label instructions.

“The most important way to prevent EEE and other diseases carried by mosquitoes is to fight the bite. It’s simple to help reduce the mosquito population near where you live, work, and play. To keep mosquitoes from biting you, cover your skin with clothing or mosquito repellent when you’re outside,” said Dr. Christopher Wilson, Western Tidewater Health District Director.

The City of Suffolk Public Works Mosquito Control continues to detect Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus activity in mosquito pools from neighborhoods across the city. Increased mosquito surveillance, treatment of standing water, and evening spray applications for adult mosquitoes are also being administered.

The mosquitoes (*Culiseta melanura*) that were found with EEE rarely bite humans but citizens should still be aware of EEE activity and they should take the necessary actions to protect themselves while engaging in outdoor activities.

Free Mosquito Dunks are available to Suffolk citizens at local fire stations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Mosquito Control Office, the Media Office in City Hall, East Suffolk and Whaleyville Recreation Center, Morgan Memorial Library, Chuckatuck Library, and North Suffolk Library. In order to get your free Mosquito Dunks you must be 18 years of age or older, have proof of residence in the City of Suffolk, proper picture identification and sign the “Information Sheet” at the fire station. Placing Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water habitats is a common practice used to eliminate mosquito larvae.

For more information about Suffolk Mosquito Control, contact Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Suffolk Mosquito Control at cabadam@suffolkva.us or 757.514.7609.

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