

# Eastern Equine Encephalitis Disease Fact Sheet

## What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)?

- ⇒ Infectious viral disease spread by mosquitoes (*Aedes sp.*).
- ⇒ Seasonal epidemic in New York State that starts in the summer and continues into fall.

## What are the symptoms of EEEV?

**Severe Symptoms:** individuals over 50 and under 15 years of age are more susceptible to sudden onset of headache, high fever, chills, vomiting, progressive disorientation, seizures, encephalitis, (inflammation of the brain), and coma. Approximately a third of patients who develop EEE die, and many survivors have mild to severe brain damage.

**Diagnosis:** Symptoms may not appear for 4 to 10 days after being bitten from an infected mosquito. Health care providers diagnose EEEV based on the patient's clinical symptoms and laboratory diagnosis by testing blood or spinal fluids for virus or antibodies.

## How is EEEV transmitted?

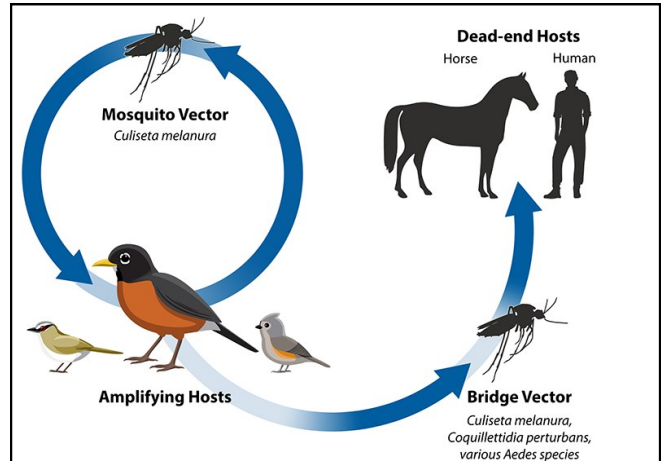
- ⇒ Infected mosquitoes (**Fig.1**).
- ⇒ **CANNOT** spread through touching/contact.

## How is EEEV Disease treated?

- ⇒ **NO** human vaccine or treatment is available.
- ⇒ In severe cases supportive care would include intravenous fluids and breathing assistance.



**Figure 2.** Common backyard mosquito sources.



**Figure 1.** EEEV Transmission, Source: CDC, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases.

## How do I prevent EEEV?

**\*\*By preventing mosquito bites!\*\***

- ⇒ Avoid outdoors between dusk and dawn.
- ⇒ Dress with long sleeves and pants to cover as much skin as possible.
- ⇒ Use mosquito repellent with DEET, picardin, oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow label instructions.
- ⇒ Eliminate sources of standing water (**Fig.2**).
- ⇒ Repair window and screen doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

## What else should I know?

- ⇒ Birds can be infected with EEEV and serve as a source to infect mosquitoes which then spread it to humans.
- ⇒ If you find a dead bird, **DO NOT** handle it with your bare hands.

## For More Information:

[CDC webpage](#)

[NYSDOH webpage](#)

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