Newton Update
Mayor Marc Laredo

Monday, Aug. 24, 2026

Take Precautions as West Nile Virus Level Is High in Newton

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has elevated the current risk level for West Nile Virus in Newton to high. The first human case in Middlesex County was confirmed on Thursday, Aug. 20.

Although anyone can be infected, people over 50 are at greater risk for serious illness from the virus that can cause illness ranging from a mild fever to more serious disease like encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord).

During a high risk level period, the MDPH recommends that “people over 50 or those who are immune compromised adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn).”

The current risk level for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), another mosquito-borne disease, remains *low* in Newton.

Lower your risk of mosquito-borne illness by taking these steps:

- Use an **EPA-registered insect repellent** when spending time outdoors
- Wear long-sleeves, pants and socks
- Limit outdoor activity between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active
- Repair or replace damaged screens on windows and doors
- Eliminate standing water around your home, even small puddles, where mosquitoes can breed

Find more information about mosquito-borne diseases from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health **here**.

For a risk map of both EEE and WNV, click **here**.

For questions or concerns, please contact Newton Health & Human Services at (617) 796-1420 or **health@newtonma.gov**.

Mayor Marc C. Laredo

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