



Public Health
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Ontario County, NY

Ontario County Public Health



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 30, 2019

Contact: Mary Beer, Public Health Director

Telephone: 585-396-4343

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Detected in Ontario County Horse

A Horse in the Town of Farmington has Tested Positive for EEE

Hopewell- On August 30, 2019 Ontario County Public Health was notified that a one year old horse stabled in the Town of Farmington tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE, or Triple E). This is the first time EEE has been documented in a mammal in Ontario County.

EEE is caused by a virus transmitted by a certain type of mosquito. Humans rarely become infected, but if they do, the illness is serious and can be fatal due to brain inflammation (encephalitis). It is not transmissible person-to-person, horse-to-human or horse-to-horse.

Ontario County Public Health is working with the New York State Department of Health and Ag and Markets to notify horse owners, veterinarians and the public. Enhanced surveillance for EEE is underway in the County.

Horse owners should be alert to symptoms in their animals. These may include fever, changes in gait, inability to get up and refusal to eat. They should contact their veterinarian if these occur. Vaccines are available to help protect horses from EEE. Horse owners should minimize mosquito exposure by frequently changing water in troughs and buckets and eliminating other standing water sources.

Human infection is rare and it is possible to be infected and have no symptoms. Individuals under the age of fifteen and over the age of fifty are at greatest risk for developing severe disease. Symptoms of severe disease include sudden headache, high fever, chills, vomiting, disorientation and seizures. These should be reported to a healthcare provider.

There is no human vaccine for EEE so preventing mosquito bites is important. Wear long sleeves and tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants when outdoors at dusk or dawn. Use insect repellents containing DEET according to manufacturer's instructions.

Reduce the mosquito population around homes by removing standing water. This includes attention to containers, tires, gutters, pools, hot tubs, birdbaths, etc. Additionally, make sure window and door screens fit properly and are in good condition.

For more information, see:

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern_equine_encephalitis/fact_sheet.htm

https://www.cdc.gov/arbovet/Maps/ADB_Diseases_Map/index.html

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/docs/weekly_arboviral_surveillance_report.pdf

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Director
Mary L. Beer, RN, MPH
Email: Mary.Beer@co.ontario.ny.us

Address
3019 County Complex Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424-9505

Telephone
585-396-4343
Fax: 585-396-4551

Web Site
ontariocountypublichealth.com