



MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health

Dr. John B. Endres, President of Board of Health

NEWS Release

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Don't Let Mosquitoes Take a Bite

Summer means fun in sun and being outside, and unfortunately that also means dealing with pesky mosquitoes. Bites from these pests not only itch but the bite from a mosquito can occasionally spread diseases like Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) or West Nile Virus (WNV) to us. Madison County Health Department is urging everyone to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

"We are seeing a lot of mosquitos this year. Although EEE and WNV have not been detected in mosquito pools collected in Madison County as of July 17th, two of our neighboring counties, Onondaga and Oswego County have both recently announced two EEE positive mosquito pools," said Eric Faisst, Madison County Public Health Director.

In response to EEE detected in Onondaga County, Madison County Health Department immediately enhanced its local active mosquito surveillance program. The Health Department expanded the number of mosquito trapping sites to boost its ability to quickly detect any EEE and WNV in weekly mosquito populations captured.

"Mosquitoes know no borders. After a neighboring county finds EEE, we watch our mosquito activity even more closely," said Geoffrey Snyder, Madison County Environmental Health Director. *"Mosquitoes have been around for a long time and are not going away any time soon. We want to make sure everyone knows the key steps they can take at home to fight mosquito bites."*

Do you have insect repellent on hand? If not, consider adding insect repellent to this week's grocery list. Repellent is one of the best tools at your fingertips to combat mosquitos. Protecting yourself by wearing repellent keeps the mosquitos away while you tend to your garden, wash your car, or go on a walk.

Below are four key steps you can take to prevent mosquito bites at home:

- **Apply insect repellents** –select a product with DEET, picaridin or IR3535.
- **Dress to repel** -wear long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors.
- **Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn** – these are peak mosquito biting hours.
- **Mosquito-proof your home** - keep mosquitos out using screens on your windows and doors. Also regularly remove standing water from birdbaths, gutters, pool covers and pet water dishes. Don't give mosquitos a place to breed in your yard!



Need help selecting the right insect repellent for you or your family? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of products registered by EPA with technical information on product effectiveness. Visit the EPA's list of registered repellents at <http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>.

For more information about EEE, WNV, and the latest mosquito surveillance data in Madison County, visit www.healthymadisoncounty.org.

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