

LA PORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Sandra Deausy M.D., Health Officer

Government Complex
809 State Street, Suite 401 A
La Porte, Indiana 46350

219-325-5563
219-326-6808 Ext. 2200
219-325-8628 Fax



lphealth@laportecounty.org

Tony Mancuso, Administrator

Michigan City Office
302 West 8th Street, Suite 4
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

219-809-0515
219-874-5611 Ext. 7780
219-873-3018 Fax

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DECLARES "HEALTH EMERGENCY" AT REQUEST OF INDIANA STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH AS AERIAL SPRAYING STARTING TUESDAY EVENING IS PLANNED IN SIX NORTHERN INDIANA COUNTIES TO KILL MOSQUITOES – PRIME CARRIERS OF DEADLY EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS

(LaPorte, IN) – At the request of the Indiana State Department of Health, LaPorte County Health Officer Dr. Sandra Deausy today declared a "health emergency" to support the state's planned aerial application of an EPA-approved pesticide Dibrom Tuesday evening over a wide swath of LaPorte County to control the spread of the disease.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box has authorized mosquito control flights over six northern Indiana counties including LaPorte County after a lab-reported case of the disease was found in a LaPorte County resident and additional cases have been found in a horse in LaPorte County and two horses in Lagrange County and one horse in Kosciusko county.

Dr. Deausy released a copy of the state's press advisory (see attached) regarding the flights and reassured members of the public that ISDH officials believe that Dibrom – applied as an ultra-low-volume spray that kills mosquitoes on contact – breaks down upon release of the spray droplets in the open air and also breaks down rapidly in water and sunlight.

The County Health Officer said that those residents who wished to minimize exposure may seek to stay indoors for several hours beginning at dusk Tuesday night. Some may choose to bring animals indoors and cover their ornamental fishponds prior to spraying and while not expected to be harmful to bees, beekeepers may choose to cover their hives overnight as a precaution.

Mission Statement:

"To engage and partner in a collaborative and responsive effort with the community and local organizations with respect to the diversity of the community to better serve present and future generations."

The last time ISDH conducted such aerial spraying was in 2019 when a similar outbreak of EEE virus activity resulted in 14 horse cases and a fatal human case.

For further information please contact Jen Brown or Lee Green at 317-233-7272

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sandra Deausy, M.D. in blue ink.

Sandra Deausy, M.D.
Health Officer

Handwritten signature of Tony Mancuso in blue ink.

Tony Mancuso
Administrator

Mission Statement:

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus

Public Notice: Aerial mosquito spraying to occur in northern Indiana to reduce disease risk

The Indiana Department of Health will be conducting the aerial application of pesticide in portions of Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall and Noble counties next week to control Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus in northern Indiana.

As of Sept. 18, one lab-confirmed human case has been reported in LaPorte County, and cases have been identified in two horses in LaGrange County, one horse in Kosciusko County and one horse in LaPorte County. The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) suspects EEE in three additional horses in LaGrange County.

Due to the detection of EEE activity in the area, health officials will perform targeted mosquito control utilizing aerial spraying to help protect residents from EEE. While rare, EEE virus can cause serious illness and has a fatality rate of about 33 percent in people.

Mosquito control professionals will apply an approved pesticide, Dibrom, as an ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay suspended in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact. Dibrom has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1959 for use in the United States. Dibrom immediately begins to break down upon release of the spray droplets in the open air and breaks down rapidly in water and in sunlight.

Health officials plan targeted mosquito control to help protect residents from EEE beginning Tuesday evening and continuing Wednesday if needed as weather permits. Residents should take actions to protect ornamental fish ponds and bee hives.

- Protecting the public health is the primary goal of the decision. The spray area is centered around the area where human and equine cases have been detected. Mosquito spraying is not expected to pose a risk to humans.

People who wish to minimize exposure may choose to stay indoors for several hours, beginning at dusk on the treatment dates. People may also choose to bring animals indoors and cover their ornamental fishponds prior to the spraying. Evening application of Dibrom is not expected to be harmful to bees, but beekeepers may choose to cover their hives overnight and prevent bees from exiting during the application as a precaution.

While the spraying is expected to kill 90 percent of mosquitoes, residents in the area are urged to continue to take precautions until the first hard freeze, including:

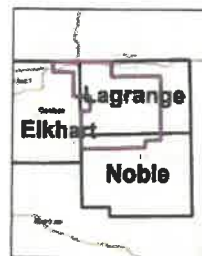
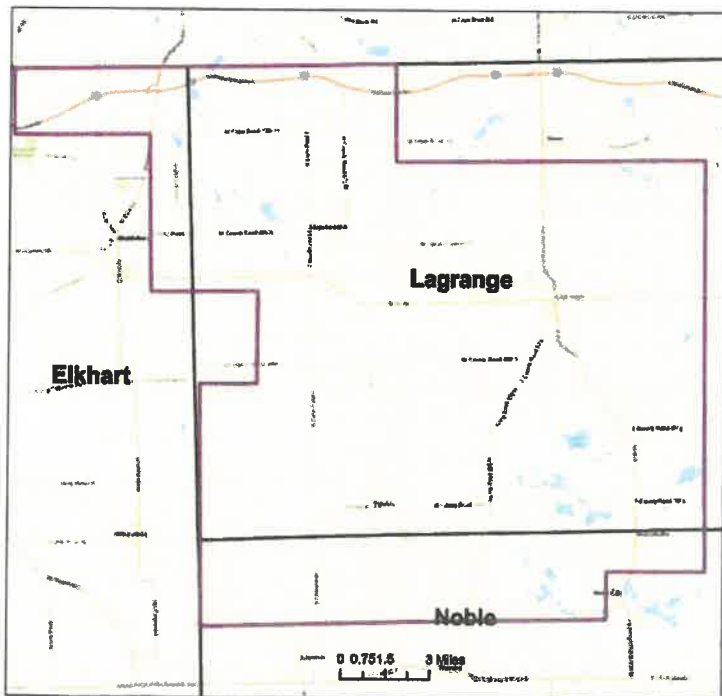
- Avoiding areas where mosquitoes breed
- Staying indoors when mosquitoes are active
- Utilizing an EPA-registered insect repellent
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants in areas of high mosquito activity

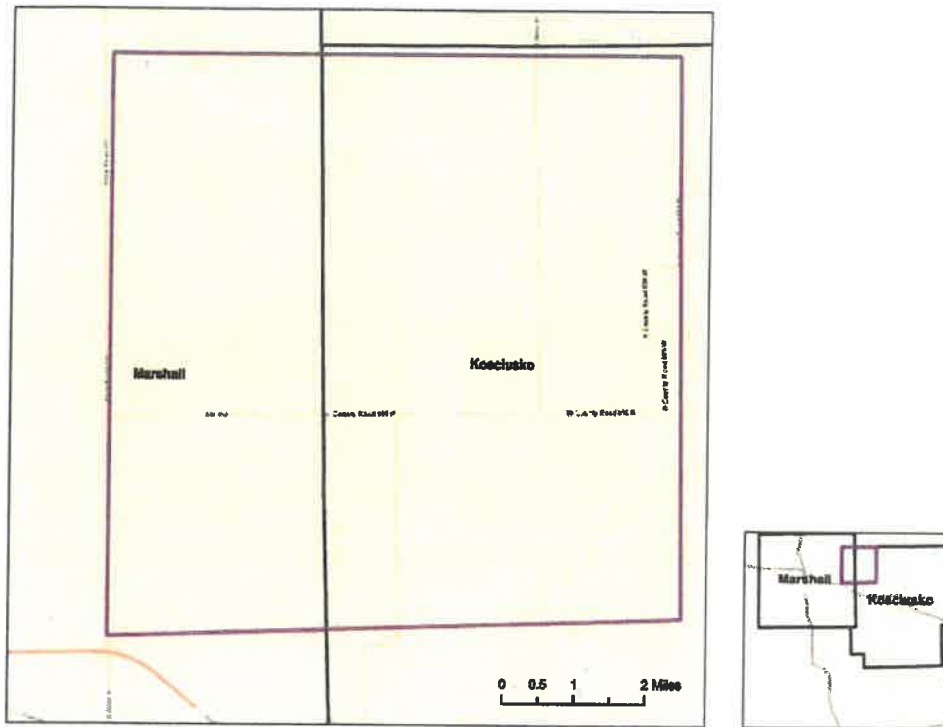
In addition, residents are urged to check their property for mosquito breeding sites and take the following actions:

- Empty containers that are holding water
- Unclog gutters
- Keep overgrown vegetation mowed
- Dispose of old tires
- Maintain screens in doorways and windows
- Swimming pools should be maintained clean and operational
- Ornamental ponds should be aerated to prevent the collection of mosquito larvae. .

.For more information about EEE, visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html> (<https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html>).

Flight areas:



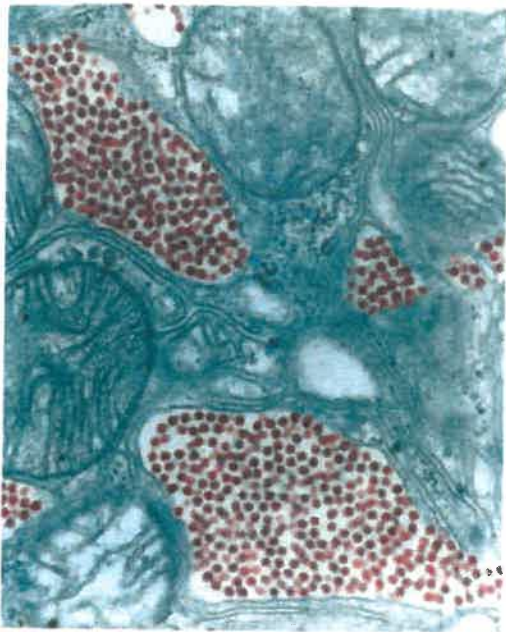


General information

Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) is an arthropod-borne virus (arbovirus) that is primarily transmitted in Indiana by mosquitoes in the genus *Coquillettidia*. People infected with EEEV can develop severe inflammation in the brain. Only a few cases of EEEV disease are reported in the United States each year. Most occur in eastern or Gulf Coast states. To see current 2020 EEEV data for Indiana, please click [here](#).

On this page:

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Eastern equine encephalitis virus. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Transmission

EEEV can be transmitted in Indiana by mosquitoes in the genus *Coquillettidia*, but some members of the genus *Aedes* may also play a role in transmission to humans and animals. These mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected wild birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread EEEV to people, horses, and other mammals. Once infected, people and other mammals are “dead-end hosts,” which means that they do not pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes.

Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of EEEV disease usually appear within 4 – 10 days of a bite from an infected mosquito. EEEV infection can result in one of two types of illness, systemic or encephalitic (involving swelling of the brain). It is possible that some people who become infected with EEEV may not develop any symptoms.

Symptoms of systemic EEEV infection appear abruptly and include chills, fever, body aches, and joint pain. People with systemic EEEV infection are usually sick for 1 to 2 weeks and recover completely if the infection does not spread to the central nervous system. In some older children and adults, systemic EEEV infection can progress to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). In infants, encephalitis can happen abruptly.

- Approximately one third of all cases of encephalitis due to EEEV are fatal. Many people who recover will experience severe ongoing complications. People who are younger than 15 years and older than 50 years are at the greatest risk of severe disease if infected with EEE virus.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of EEEV disease is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and appropriate laboratory testing. If you think you have EEEV disease, contact your healthcare provider.

Treatment

No specific medication is available to treat EEEV disease. People with severe illness usually require hospitalization, supportive care, and/or rehabilitation.

Prevention

The best way to prevent EEEV disease is to avoid mosquito bites. See our [mosquito prevention page \(/isdh/28007.htm\)](https://www.isdh.gov/28007.htm) for more information.

For more information about Eastern Equine encephalitis virus, visit the [CDC EEEV webpage \(https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html).





Maps and Statistics

This map shows current Indiana EEEV activity as of September 15, 2020. For maps showing recent infections of other arboviral diseases in people, horses, and mosquitoes, [click here \(https://gis.in.gov/apps/ISDH/Arbo/\)](https://gis.in.gov/apps/ISDH/Arbo/).

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV) Activity

Updated September 15, 2020

EEEV Status

-  EEEV human disease cases reported
-  EEEV non-human activity detected
-  Enhanced surveillance
-  Routine surveillance

Non-human activity may refer to equine infections, positive mosquito samples, or both. Please visit <https://gis.in.gov/apps/ISDH/Arba/> for more detailed information.



While equine cases are occasionally detected, human EEEV disease is rare in Indiana. One case was reported in 2019. For more information, please visit:

- [ISDH ERC Stats Explorer \(https://gis.in.gov/apps/isdh/meta/stats_layers.htm\)](https://gis.in.gov/apps/isdh/meta/stats_layers.htm)
- [Indiana Annual Report of Infectious Diseases \(https://www.in.gov/isdh/20667.htm\)](https://www.in.gov/isdh/20667.htm)

National statistics for EEEV disease can be found at the [CDC EEEV Statistics and Maps webpage \(https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/tech/epi.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/tech/epi.html).

Resources

[EEEV Quick Facts \(/isdh/files/EEEV%20Quick%20Facts.pdf\)](/isdh/files/EEEV%20Quick%20Facts.pdf)

Information for Providers

- For EEEV disease diagnosis, treatment, and testing information, [click here \(https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/tech/diagnosis.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/tech/diagnosis.html).

Page Last Updated: September 15, 2020

Page Last Reviewed: July 22, 2019