



Clinton County Health Department

133 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901-2926

“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

www.clintonhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Administration Division

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News Release

Date: September 6, 2023
For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Horse Identified with Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Clinton County

Clinton County, September 6, 2023. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) has been notified that a horse in Schuyler Falls has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE, Triple E) virus. The animal recently arrived in Clinton County and was likely exposed to EEE out of state. The EEE virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and can infect people, horses and other mammals, some birds, reptiles and amphibians. This very rare but serious virus can cause inflammation of the brain, also known as encephalitis.

In August, one horse tested positive for EEE in Moira (Franklin County), two in Brasher Falls (St. Lawrence County), and one in Brier Hill (St. Lawrence County). In the United States, an average of 11 human cases of EEE are reported annually. In New York State, there have been eight human disease cases between 2003-2022. These cases occurred in Oswego and Onondaga counties. There have been no human cases reported in NYS in 2023.

EEE can cause various symptoms, such as fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes, drowsiness, or coma. If you are under 15 or over 50, you are more likely to develop a severe form of EEE. The best way to prevent EEE is to protect yourself from mosquito bites. There are no medications to prevent or treat EEE virus infections in humans.

EEE vaccination is very effective at preventing clinical disease in horses. Vaccination needs to be repeated at minimum on an annual basis; consult with your veterinarian regarding boosters. To reduce exposure to mosquitoes for horses: eliminate any standing water (mosquito habitat) and place fans inside where the horses rest, limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk, and use equine approved mosquito repellent.

Take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Cover your skin as completely as possible when outside when mosquitoes are present and active. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 and follow label directions. Do not apply repellent directly on children; instead apply it to your own hands and then rub it onto your child. Avoid applying to your face and wash your skin and clothing thoroughly after coming indoors.
- Make sure there are screens in your home’s windows and doors. Make sure the screens are free of rips, tears and holes.
- Eliminate all standing water on or around your home and property where mosquitoes can breed. Make sure your roof gutters drain correctly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall. Remove or turn over any items that may hold stagnant water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Clear vegetation and waste from the edge of ponds.



“Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations”

For more information on EEE, please call CCHD at 518-565-4848 or visit:

CCHD Summer Safety Guide:

http://www.clintonhealth.org/news_letters/SummerSafetyGuide2023.pdf

New York State Department of Health's website:

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

Center for Disease Control website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html#:~:text=EEE%20virus%20is%20a%20rare,survivors%20have%20ongoing%20neurologic%20problems.>

U.S. Department of Agriculture's website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/eee-wee-vee>

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department's Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at www.clintonhealth.org or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), X [Twitter (@ClintonCountyHD)], and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).

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