



# Haverhill

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## Haverhill to Suspend Nighttime Sports, Ramp Up Mosquito Trapping and Testing

The city's Board of Health is recommending that all nighttime outdoor events, activities and sports practices and games be cancelled or postponed until further notice, in response to a dead horse infected with the EEE virus found Monday in Methuen.

Mayor James J. Fiorentini stressed that no infested mosquitoes have been found this year in Haverhill, but that the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control District will conduct supplemental trapping and testing of mosquitos this week in the city. The mosquito control district, of which Haverhill is a member, will also be spraying catch basins and other fresh water areas with larvicide this week, Mayor Fiorentini said.

"We are advising that residents stay indoors from dusk to dawn, to the extent possible," Mayor Fiorentini said. "Typically, this lasts until the first frost."

School Superintendent Dr. Margaret Marotta said the school district will be following the Health Board's recommendations and that all after-school activities and sports will end at 7 p.m. until Sept. 30. Additionally, all school facilities including the high school track and various playing fields will close at 7 p.m. until Sept. 30, she said.

Haverhill is part of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control District, a state agency that provides mosquito control activities to 36 communities in the region. The district oversees spraying and other mosquito control measures in the city.

So far this summer, mosquito spraying in Haverhill has been limited to targeting larvae in the breeding habitat before they can mature into adult mosquitoes and disperse. Larvicide treatment of breeding habitats helps reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas.

Meanwhile, Mayor Fiorentini is urging the public to take precautions against mosquito bites including: avoiding outdoor activities from dusk to dawn; using insect repellent; and wearing long sleeves and long pants. Residents are also urged to check their properties for unattended containers of standing water, which may attract mosquitoes.



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More information is available at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/west-nile-virus-wnv>  
and at [www.nemassmosquito.org](http://www.nemassmosquito.org)