

What You Need to Know about EEE Virus in the Northeast U.S.

What is EEE Virus?

- Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a type of germ called a virus that is spread by mosquitoes
- The virus is very rare but it sometimes spreads to people when we are bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus

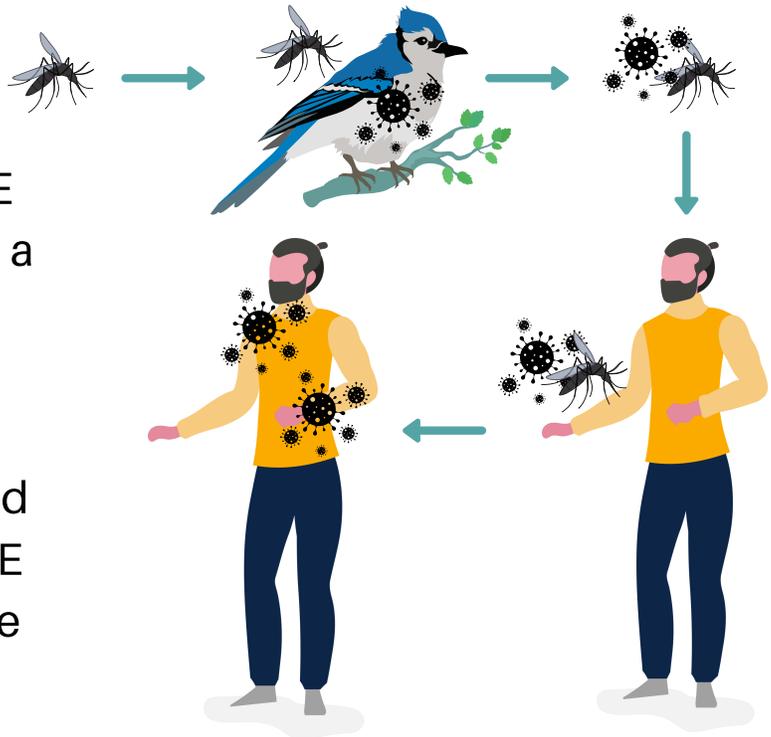
How Does EEE Virus Spread?

1

A mosquito gets EEE virus after feeding on a bird with the virus

2

The mosquito then feeds on a human and gives that person EEE virus through the bite



Where EEE Virus Has Been

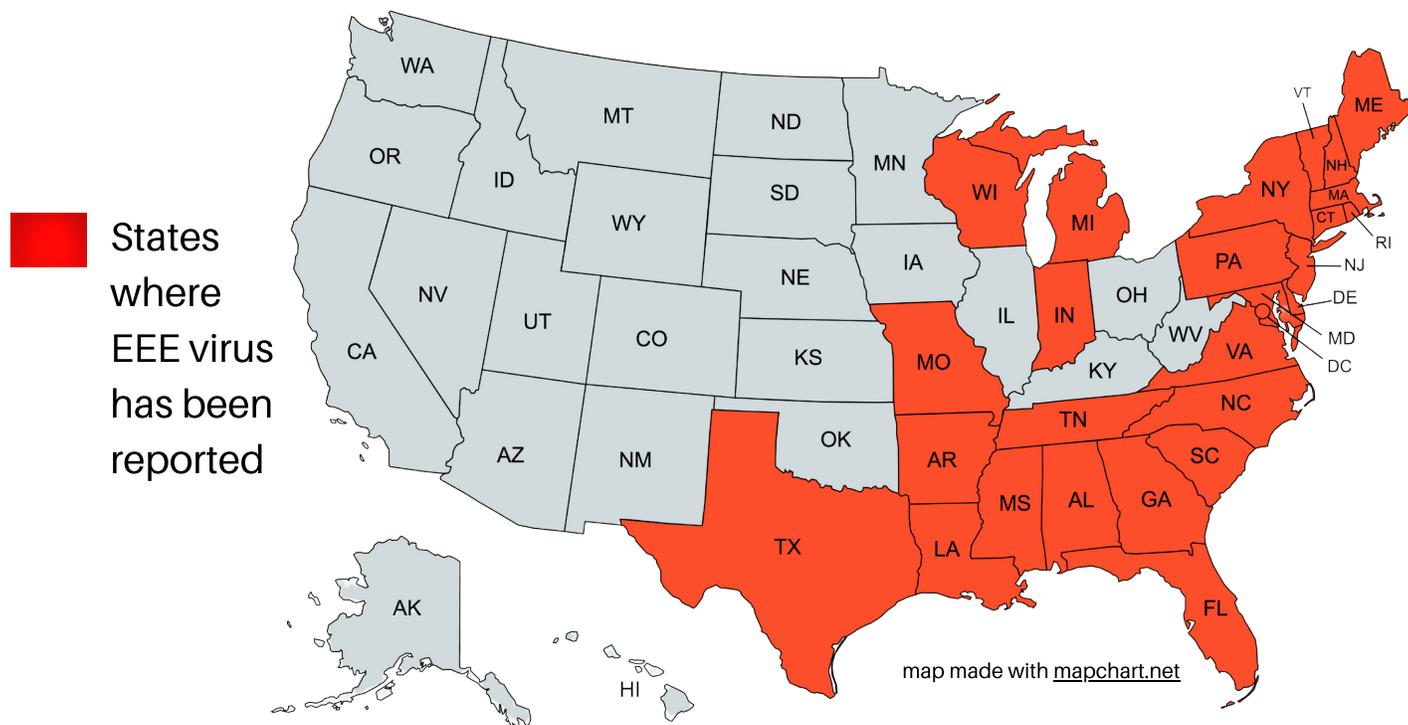
- Nobody knows how long the EEE virus has been in the U.S.
- EEE outbreaks were recorded as early as the 1800s in the Northeast U.S.
- The first recorded human cases were in Massachusetts in 1938

Protect Yourself Against EEE Virus



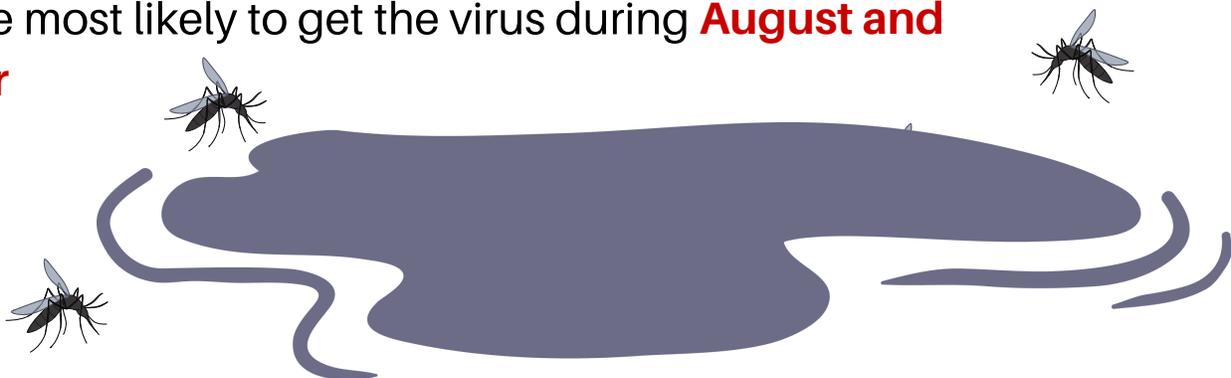
Where EEE Virus is Going

Nowadays, the EEE virus is most common in southern New England, New York, and New Jersey. It also appears as far north as Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and as far south as Florida.



When and Where Are You at Risk?

- Mosquitoes spend part of their life in water
- Mosquitoes that have EEE virus are mainly found around **shady forested swamps**
- Mosquitoes that spread EEE are most active at **dusk and dawn**
- They can also bite in the daytime in **shady areas**
- Humans are most likely to get the virus during **August and September**



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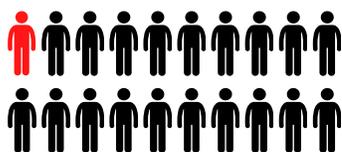




Symptoms of EEE Virus

EEE sickness can include fever, chills, muscle and joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, weakness, sleepiness, seizures, coma, and swelling in areas around the brain and spinal cord

A Look at the Numbers



1 out of 20 people bitten by a mosquito with EEE virus get very sick



The sickness from EEE comes 4 to 10 days after being bitten



1 out of 3 people who get very sick from EEE virus die



Death happens 2 to 10 days after symptoms first show up



About 10 people get sick with the virus every year. EEE virus can affect anyone. People over 50 years old or under 15 years old are most likely to get very sick if they get EEE virus

Treatment

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent EEE virus for humans
- The best way to protect yourself and your family from EEE virus is to take action to prevent mosquito bites
- Get medical help right away if you have signs or symptoms of EEE virus



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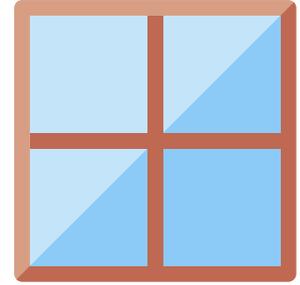
Avoid EEE Virus by Preventing Mosquito Bites



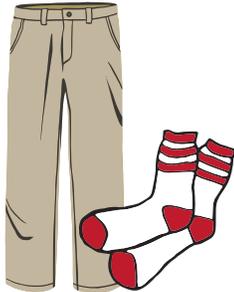
Use EPA-registered bug spray on your skin and clothing to keep mosquitoes away



Use the insecticide permethrin on clothing and gear to keep mosquitoes away



Cover up holes in your screens and windows so mosquitoes cannot get inside



Wear long-sleeve clothing and socks. Close all gaps in clothing (for example, tuck shirts into pants)



Get rid of water that may be collecting in buckets, pools, open containers, and other areas around the outside of your home

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the lifesaving insecticide permethrin: <https://bit.ly/3xtUUjg>
- Everything you need to know about bug spray: <https://bit.ly/3ysnKBM>
- EEE virus facts in 11 different languages: <https://bit.ly/3fzvgDw>



Sources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/gen/pre.html>
- <https://www.outbreakobservatory.org/outbreakthursday-1/8/29/2019/eastern-equine-encephalitis-in-the-northeast>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/caes/mosquito-testing/introductory/state-of-connecticut-mosquito-trapping-and-arbovirus-testing-program>
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eee-eastern-equine-encephalitis>
- <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/eee/documents/EEE-FS.pdf>

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