



# Jackson County Health Department

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*Creating Healthy Communities*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Horse Case of EEE identified in Jackson County

**JACKSON COUNTY, MI-** The Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) was notified on Thursday, September 17, of a horse that tested positive in Henrietta Township for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). One additional horse case was reported earlier this month and no human cases of EEE have been confirmed in Jackson County. This case brings the total for the State of Michigan to 28 horse cases and 1 suspect human case.

As a result of this case, an additional mosquito control treatment area in Jackson County has been added by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Mosquito control aerial spraying began on Wednesday, September 16 but, as spraying is weather dependent, it is unknown how many days it will take for all blocks to be sprayed. See [www.Michigan.gov/EEE](http://www.Michigan.gov/EEE) for aerial spraying maps, areas completed, and spraying schedules.

Aerial spraying is completed by a low-flying aircraft, beginning at dusk and continuing until 4:30 a.m. the next morning. Mosquito control professionals will apply approved pesticides 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. The product used for spraying is Merus 3.0 which is OMRI Listed and can be used around organic crops and gardens. It may be used in certified organic production or food processing and handling according to the USDA National Organic Program regulations.

Because conditions are favorable for EEE-carrying mosquitoes at this time of year, people living or visiting Jackson County should take precautions against mosquito bites. EEE cannot be spread between animals or between animals and humans, but humans can get EEE through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most (95-96%) cases of human EEE do not cause any symptoms, and less than 1% develop serious illness. However, EEE is potentially serious and symptoms include fever, weakness, and muscle and joint pain. More severe illness can cause swelling of the brain and surrounding tissues. Anyone can be affected by EEE, but persons over age 60 and under age 15 are at greatest risk for developing severe disease.

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Working together to create and promote a healthy community through  
disease prevention and control,  
health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.

If you plan to spend time outdoors, JCHD encourages residents to continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Avoiding being outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitos that carry the EEE virus are most active.
- Applying insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered product to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- Maintaining window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Emptying water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.
- Using nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/eee](http://www.michigan.gov/eee) and [www.cdc.gov/eee](http://www.cdc.gov/eee).

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