



Date: July 7, 2020
To: All Homeowners, Property Owners/Managers
From: Framingham Department of Public Health
Re: Outdoor Swimming Pools and EEE

The 2019 mosquito season was an active season for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts. While the risk for human infection of EEE or West Nile Virus will not happen until later this summer, in the past, the Framingham Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health suggested that property owners eliminate all sources of standing water on their property to prevent a breeding environment for mosquitoes.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, some apartment buildings and condominiums in the City of Framingham have decided not to open their outdoor swimming pools this season. Property owners/managers are still required to maintain their swimming pools even if they are closed for the season.

Similarly, homeowners are also required to maintain their swimming pools in their property. **It is not unusual to see hundreds of mosquito larvae in as little as two cups (one pint) of water.** Once mosquito larvae mature and emerge from the water, their likely targets will be the owners of the yard and their neighbors.

To prevent your outdoor swimming pool becoming a source of mosquitoes, make a thorough inspection of your property and remove or modify water-holding containers that may breed mosquitoes:



- Tires should either be disposed of or stored inside a garage or cellar.
- Potential water holding containers such as rubbish barrels, buckets, wheelbarrows and small boats should be covered or stored upside down.
- The water in wading pools and birdbaths should be changed at least once a week.
- Infrequently used pools should be tightly covered or chlorinated.
- Barrels used by gardeners to collect rainwater should be emptied once a week.
- Ornamental ponds should be stocked with small fish or treated with Bti as needed.

Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is a type of bacteria that is an effective and relatively non-toxic mosquito larvicide. Bti is available under the product name, "Mosquito Dunks" and can be purchased at local hardware and garden supply stores.

Although Bti is an effective treatment, it is only a **temporary** solution. Eliminating potential sources of standing water, such as filling in pools no longer in use, should be considered in order to **prevent** mosquito breeding and harborage in the future.

If you need **assistance in treating standing water or have any questions about mosquitoes** please contact **Brian Farless**, of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project at **(781) 899-5730**.