



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000  
www.mass.gov/dph

**DETERMINATION OF ELEVATED RISK OF ARBOVIRUS**

**WHEREAS**, Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are mosquito-borne viruses, or arboviruses, which are found in the local environment in Massachusetts and are capable of causing serious disease and death in humans, horses, and other mammals;

**WHEREAS**, EEE and WNV are arboviruses deemed by the Department of Public Health to be dangerous to the public health pursuant to G.L. c. 111 §6;

**WHEREAS**, EEE infection causes a rare but serious neuroinvasive disease that causes meningitis or encephalitis, and often results in death or severe disability;

**WHEREAS**, WNV infection is more common, though typically less severe than EEE, with presentation of symptoms ranging from febrile illness to neuroinvasive disease;

**WHEREAS**, there are no available vaccines to prevent human infections from either of these mosquito-borne viruses and there are no available treatments for either disease; and,

**WHEREAS**, to monitor and protect the public health in the Commonwealth, the Department of Public Health Arbovirus Surveillance Program (ASP), in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Resources, State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, and regional Mosquito Control Districts, conducts surveillance for mosquito-borne viruses focused on EEE and WNV and analyzes present and historic trends,

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to G.L. c. 252 §2A(a), and based on the data collected and analyzed by the ASP, summarized in the report “Arbovirus Surveillance in Massachusetts, 2019” (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/arbovirus-surveillance-plan-and-historical-data>) and the 2020 data collected to date (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update>), including identification of EEE and WNV in species of mosquitos which bite mammals, I have determined that there is an elevated risk of arbovirus in the Commonwealth for 2020.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of  
Public Health

August 4, 2020