

DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL, INC.

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2024 Final Update

The 2024 season had the most EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) activity in a decade with humans, horses and mosquitoes all testing positive for the disease. Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont also experienced elevated disease activity. None of the mosquitoes trapped in Salem tested positive for diseases this season. However, there was disease activity in abutting towns.

Arboviral disease this season:

- The State has confirmed human cases of EEE in Derry, Kensington & Newmarket and deaths from EEE in Danville and Hampstead
- Four horses died from EEE in Danville, Dunbarton, Kensington & Northwood, NH
- A white-tailed deer from Pembroke tested positive for EEE
- Mosquitoes from Danville, East Kingston, Fremont, Hampstead, Kensington, Kingston & Newton, North Hampton & Stratham tested positive for EEE
- Mosquitoes from Nashua, Manchester & Portsmouth tested positive for West Nile Virus
- There were human cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus in Gilmanston & Tilton and one co-infection of Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) and West Nile Virus in Swanzey, NH
- Mosquitoes collected in Keene, Londonderry & Seabrook tested positive for JCV

Dragon has:

- Checked mosquito breeding sites and treated as needed with Bti
- Monitored catch basins for larval mosquito activity
- Emptied man-made containers where mosquito larvae were found
- Trapped adult mosquitoes in fixed locations throughout town
- Processed and identified adult mosquitoes to species
- Sent adult mosquito species to the State Lab in Concord for disease testing

It was unusual to see the amount of EEE activity this season despite the fact that southeastern New Hampshire was experiencing very dry conditions. The extreme rainfall in 2023 set the stage for the EEE outbreak in 2024. It's possible we could see another year of increased disease activity in 2025. The amount of precipitation received in the upcoming months may allow EEE to thrive next season. A warming planet and more severe storm events create favorable conditions for mosquitoes to breed and help spread a variety of arboviruses. Dragon strives for ways to improve our control of the municipal mosquito population, strengthen our surveillance network and accelerate our outbreak response for better protection of public health.