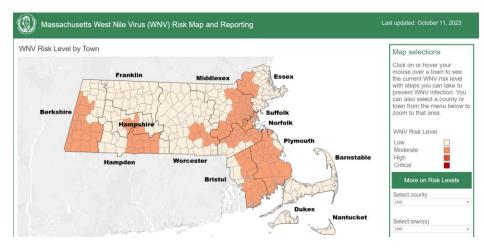
West Nile virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced the fourth human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in a Massachusetts resident this year. The individual is a male in his 60s who was exposed in Norfolk County.

The risk of human infection with WNV is already moderate in the Greater Boston area (Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties), and in parts of Berkshire, Bristol, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, and Worcester counties. Twelve additional municipalities - Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton and Sherborn in Middlesex County, and Dover, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Walpole, and Westwood in Norfolk County - are now also considered to be at moderate risk.

The Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD, explained in a <u>recent press release</u>, "once the weather gets cooler, mosquito activity will start to be reduced. However, some risk from mosquito-borne disease will continue until the first hard frost."

Overall, there have been 28 positive mosquito samples for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), yet no human cases. Additionally, there have been 164 positive mosquito samples for West Nile virus and four human cases.



Free COVID-19 tests:

Just a reminder, residential households in the U.S. can order four free at home tests from <u>USPS.com</u> again! Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address
- One order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests (<u>COVIDTests.gov has</u> <u>more details about at-home tests</u>, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates)
- Orders have already started to ship
- Tests may show "expired" dates on the box, but FDA has extended those dates; see the full list of extended expiration dates.