**NOTIFICATION TO HEATH, COLRAIN and ROWE, Charlemont and Shelburne Residents**

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has increased the risk for EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) in our Towns.**

***Actions:*** DPH is recommending **cancellation of public evening activities between dusk and dawn in the Towns of Heath and Colrain where the risk of EEE has been elevated to “Critical”.**

In **Towns of Rowe, Charlemont and Shelburne where DPH has elevated the risk to “Moderate”** residents are advised to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites, including using repellents, wearing long sleeves when feasible, and avoiding areas with obvious mosquito activity.

The virus that causes EEE is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. The first symptoms of EEE are fever (often 103º to 106ºF), stiff neck, headache, and fatigue. These symptoms show up three to ten days after a bite from an infected mosquito. EEE infection can lead to severe illness and medical complications.

* **If you experience fever of 103º to 106ºF), stiff neck, headache, and fatigue; go to your doctor or the emergency department.**

Risk of exposure to mosquito-borne disease exists until the first hard frost of the season.

Testing of mosquitos will be done over this weekend and additional messaging will be issued as information becomes available.

EEE Fact sheets are available at: Town Hall. Library and Post Office

More information about EEE is available at [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito)