



Lincoln Public Schools

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Rebecca E. McFall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

September 11, 2019

Dear Families and Educators,

Last night, Tim Higgins, Town Administrator and I, Becky McFall, Superintendent, met with the Lincoln Board of Health to discuss concerns related to the risk of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The Lincoln Board of Health (BOH) approved localized mosquito spraying on the perimeters of the playing fields throughout the town and high-risk areas on the Ballfield Road campus. More information about the spraying is provided below. In addition, the BOH asked that we adjust the hours of operation of our outdoor facilities and the activities that take place outdoors. All outdoor activities including those sponsored by the Town of Lincoln, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Parks and Recreation, and organized youth organizations shall conclude no later than 6pm in the evening and shall not begin prior to 6am. In addition, mosquito spraying will be carried out at Hanscom Air Force Base (HAFB) beginning tomorrow evening, September 12th. Information will be sent by HAFB personnel to base residents and employees regarding their protocol.

Remember, the most effective approach to prevention of contracting EEE is to take personal precautions--wearing clothing that provides complete coverage, such as long pants and sleeves and using insect repellents that contain DEET. School personnel may not administer insect repellents to children or insist that they use them; however, faculty and staff will remind students to apply repellents prior to going outside for recess or afterschool activities, if parents/guardians have provided them to their children for use at school.

Information About Mosquito Spraying

Lincoln is currently rated at Moderate Risk for EEE. Most of our surrounding towns will undergo aerial spraying in the coming days. At this time, Lincoln will not undertake aerial spraying. We will use localized spraying of high use, high risk areas such as the areas surrounding playing fields or high traffic (mosquitoes and people) areas on the school campus. To reduce harmful risk to humans and animals, a pesticide that is created for spaces that are utilized by children and pets will be used.

The pesticide used in these situations is as follows:

Trade name - Mavrik Perimeter

Active ingredient - tau-fluvalinate

EPA# 2724-478

(additional information available upon request)

The pesticide will be sprayed on the large vegetation on the perimeters of the school properties. Fields will not be sprayed directly, so fields will be able to be used at any point without concern. Children will not come in direct contact with pesticides. Fields are sunny with short grass and are

not the environment that mosquitoes frequent, and thus spraying of pesticides on fields would have little impact on controlling the mosquito population.

We understand that many of you have strong feelings that spraying should occur, and an equal number of you likely have strong feelings that we should not spray. Given the circumstances in our neighboring towns, we feel that the health and safety of the members of our community is a top priority. We are taking an approach that is both effective and creates minimal unintended consequences. Spraying will be specifically directed to identified areas and administered by trained personnel. It will be applied locally as opposed to a broad application such as aerial spraying or truck-based spraying. We are working with the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project to coordinate spraying services. We anticipate that spraying will take place the week of September 16th.

School field trips to towns with moderate risk or higher, or to habitats that present high risk such as wooded areas, are being canceled or rescheduled. We appreciate your understanding as we place the highest priority on taking preventative measures to keep students and staff safe.

Additional information and resources are provided below. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Sincerely,

Becky McFall, Superintendent

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Tim Higgins, Town Administrator

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Resources:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mosquito-control-projects-and-districts>

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eee-eastern-equine-encephalitis>

<https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/wnv-and-eee-in-animals>

<https://www.lincolntown.org/116/Board-of-Health>