

# Rye Mosquito Control Commission

## Monthly Update – Rye Civic News

### September, 2021

The Town of Rye's vendor, Dragon Mosquito Control, remained very busy into September with wetland larval monitoring at 77 fresh and salt water marshes, larviciding treatments in 71 fresh and salt water marshes and 332 catch basins, continued surveillance (set traps, identify species, mortality checks in salt marshes and delivery for testing to the State Lab in Concord), removal and storage at Goss Farm of 184 Greenhead traps and limited spraying in late August at the Recreation Area, Parson's Field and the Elementary and Junior High Schools.

Testing at the State Lab looks to identify West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV). Through August, no mosquitos have tested positive for disease this season in Rye, which is great news considering that conditions were right for mosquitos to flourish in the summer of 2021, among the wettest on record – and only a year after one of our driest.

Year-to-date statewide testing of mosquito batches at the State Lab shows only a few positive tests, including one for WNV detected in Portsmouth. Fortunately, the species it was detected in mostly bites birds, not humans. Prior drought conditions contributed to lower disease incidence in 2021, but wet weather portends increased population of certain species and with it the possibility of higher disease activity in 2022. There are no positive cases of EEE. Testing for JCV is limited because it is a pilot program in NH, and the 16 positive cases of JCV, in 6 towns, indicate it may be more widespread. JCV is carried by deer, while WNV is carried by birds. No animals have tested positive in NH for WNV or EEE thus far in 2021.

Since 2016, testing on humans in the State of NH averages 32 per year. The NH Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #10, produced by the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control and updated through the week of August 22-28, 2021, confirms testing on 17 people in NH year-to-date, with one person testing positive for JCV, in Dublin, NH. It is thought that the infection, which proved fatal, was acquired out-of-state.

Shorter days and cooler weather slow mosquito activity and bring an end to breeding season. Dragon's work will continue into October, as mosquito trapping and disease testing at the State Lab continue into mid-October. Interestingly, Dragon notes that the season historically ended on or around Labor Day, but now concludes closer to Halloween. Rye residents are again reminded to stay vigilant when outside, as the threat of mosquitos carrying disease won't diminish until late Fall, after a frost or two.