

# Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)



## INFORMATION ABOUT SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOES IN MICHIGAN

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been sickening and killing people and animals in certain parts of Michigan. To help combat this, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be conducting aerial spraying to kill mosquitoes carrying the virus that causes EEE. The spraying will take place within 2.5 miles of where a human or animal case has been identified. Portions of Eureka, Montcalm and Pierson townships will be included in this effort.

**The spraying will begin in Eureka, Montcalm and Pierson townships at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 29, 2019, weather permitting. You can view the spray schedule at [www.Michigan.gov/EEE](http://www.Michigan.gov/EEE)**

For details on EEE and the aerial spraying, please read the enclosed materials.

### **What is the purpose of spraying pesticide on parts of Michigan?**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will be conducting aerial spraying to kill mosquitoes carrying the virus that causes EEE. Mosquitoes naturally die off when there is a hard frost, but until then, MDHHS is taking this additional step to protect people from EEE infection.

### **How will the aerial pesticide spraying occur?**

Applications are scheduled to begin after dusk, at approximately 8 p.m. and will continue through the night or until weather conditions are no longer favorable for application. Mosquito control is weather-dependent. Wind speeds, temperature and precipitation on the ground and in the air may affect spraying. Mosquito control professionals will apply approved pesticides as an ultra-low volume (ULV) spray. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay suspended in the air and kill adult mosquitoes on contact.

### **What pesticide will be used?**

Merus 3.0 is an EPA registered botanical pesticide containing five percent pyrethrins, which are naturally found in chrysanthemum flowers. Pyrethrins are commonly used to control mosquitoes, fleas, flies, moths, ants and many other pests. Pyrethrins have been registered for use in pesticides since the 1950s. When used in accordance with the label, Merus 3.0 is not expected to cause adverse health effects in people, pets or livestock. Merus 3.0 is used regularly in other parts of the country to prevent EEE.

### **Do I need to do anything to prepare for the spraying?**

No special action needs to be taken by residents before, during or after the spraying.

### **How long does Merus 3.0 last in the environment?**

Merus 3.0 will break down over time, ranging from hours in the air to days in the soil.

### **Will the spray contaminate my drinking water?**

Merus 3.0 binds strongly to soil, so chances are low that it could get into the groundwater. Merus 3.0 breaks down quickly in surface water. Drinking water reservoirs and large lakes will not be sprayed. Because of these factors, Merus 3.0 is not expected to harm drinking water.

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For questions about health effects from pesticide applications, contact MI-TOXICS and health Hotline at 800-648-6942.

**For more information, you may contact the  
Mid-Michigan District Health Department at 989-831-3668.**

