EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS IN MICHIGAN

2021 MICHIGAN
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
CONFERENCE

KIMBERLY SIGNS, DVM EMERGING & ZOONOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES SECTION







OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S TALK

- BACKGROUND ON EEE VIRUS (EEEV) AND ECOLOGY
- OVERVIEW OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF EEEV IN THE U. S.
- HISTORY OF EEEV IN MICHIGAN
- EPIDEMIOLOGY OF EEEV IN MICHIGAN
- 2019-2020 EEEV Surveillance and Outbreak Response
- FUTURE?





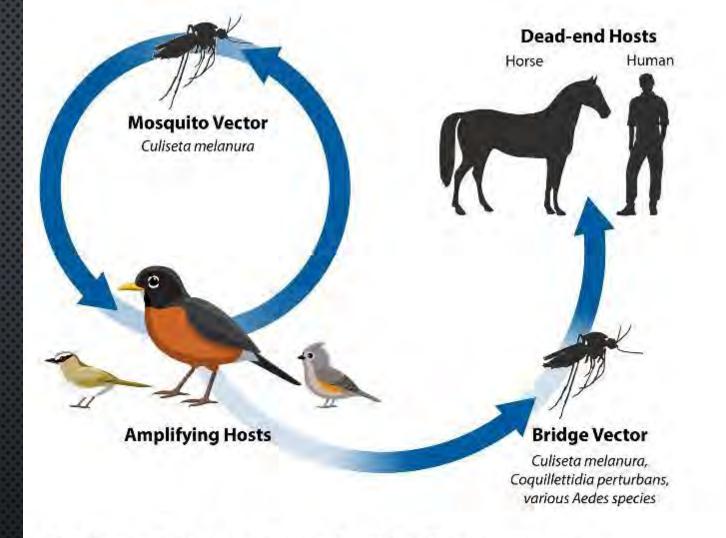


EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (EEEV)

- Causes EEE, a rare but devasting, sometimes fatal brain infection
- Transmitted via mosquito bite (arbovirus)
- Endemic to the US



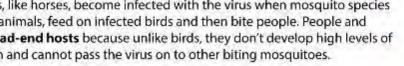




Eastern Equine Encephalitis Transmission

The Eastern equine encephalitis virus cycles between mosquitoes and birds. The Culiseta melanura mosquito, which primarily bites birds, is responsible for spreading the virus among birds. The virus then multiplies in the birds' bloodstream.

People and other animals, like horses, become infected with the virus when mosquito species that feed on many kinds animals, feed on infected birds and then bite people. People and horses are considered dead-end hosts because unlike birds, they don't develop high levels of virus in their bloodstream and cannot pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes.









EEE IN HUMANS



- Illness begins 4-10 days after a bite from an infected mosquito
 - Abrupt onset of fever, chills, and/or joint and muscle pain
- When the brain is infected, onset can be swift and include fever, headache, and confusion – this is referred to as "neuroinvasive" disease
- ~1/3 of symptomatic cases result in death, typically within 2-10 days of illness onset
- Survivors often have long-lasting brain damage; many become disabled, and some require lifelong care
- There is no treatment beyond supportive care or vaccine for people





CSF includes neutrophilic pleocytosis, elevated protein

DIAGNOSIS



Serologic Testing:

- Commercial laboratories offer IFA-less sensitive than EIA
- State HD and CDC offer EIA/MIA
- Detection of IgM in CSF is suggestive of recent infection
- Confirmed with PRNT (measure of neutralizing or IgG antibody)

PCR: Narrow window for detection

Only performed at CDC

In some cases, laboratory confirmation can take several weeks





EEE IN ANIMALS

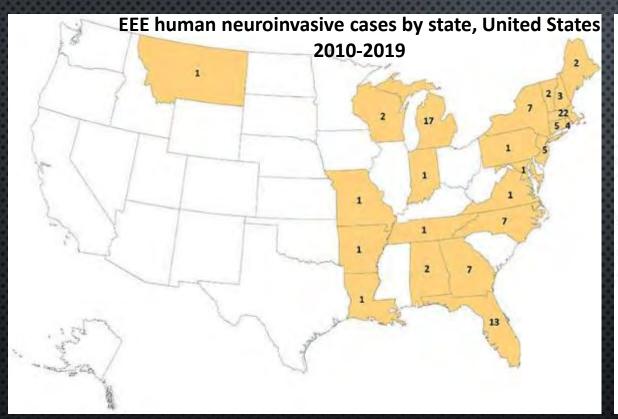


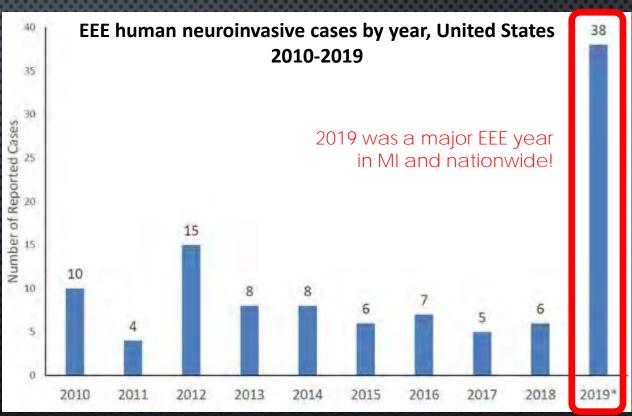
- Other mammals can become ill from EEE
- EEE is especially severe in horses
 - If a horse or other animal becomes ill with EEE, it means that there is also a risk to people in that area
 - MDHHS works with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)to monitor for EEE in horses
 - There is a EEE vaccine available for horses
- MDHHS also works with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to monitor EEE in wild animals, such as deer





EEE IN THE UNITED STATES: HUMAN NEUROINVASIVE† CASES 2010-2019





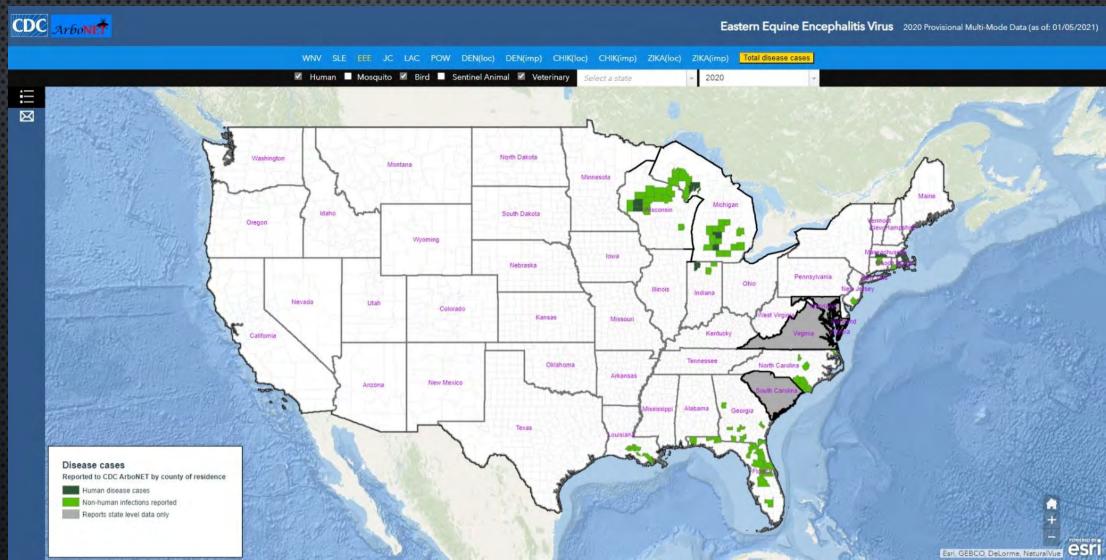
†Neuroinvasive means "affecting the brain or spinal cord"





2020 EEE OUTBREAK

In 2020, Michigan and several other states again experienced an unusually high number of animal and human EEE cases







EEE IN THE U.S. HUMAN NEUROINVASIVE CASES, 2020





State	Neuroinvasive disease cases	Deaths
Indiana	1	0
Massachusetts	4	1
Michigan	4	2
Wisconsin	2	1
Total	11	4

Data as of Jan. 5, 2021





BRIEF HISTORY OF EEE IN MICHIGAN

- 1942-43: Large horse outbreak in SW Michigan, 469 horse cases
 - EEE virus isolated from brain tissue of dead horses in 1942 and 1943
- 1973-75: Second outbreak of EEE in Michigan horses. Started in Oakland County, extended widely with scattered horse cases in SE Michigan. First mosquito and bird investigations.
- 1980: First human case of EEE in Michigan, in a 10-year-old boy from St. Joseph County
- 1980-83: Third outbreak of EEE in Michigan. EEE virus isolated from mosquitoes in state for first time, second human case.
- 1989, 1991, other years: outbreaks among animals
- 1991: SE & SW Michigan outbreak, two human cases
- 1990s-2000s: Several sporadic cases and outbreaks, 1995 in particular
- 2010: Outbreak with three human cases and 132 horse cases.
- 2019: Largest human outbreak ever: 10 human cases (6 fatal), 50 animals
- 2020: Outbreak with four human cases (2 fatal), 41 animals





BRIEF HISTORY OF EEE IN MICHIGAN

1942-43

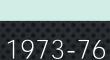
- 1st reported outbreak -469 horses in SW MI
- 1st viral isolation

1980-84

- 1980: 1st reported human case
- 3rd reported outbreak – 169 horses

2010s

- 2010: three humans,134 horses
- 2019: <mark>10 humans</mark> 50 animals
- 2020: four humans, 41 animals



 2nd reported outbreak – 44 horses in south MI



Sporadic cases, outbreaks





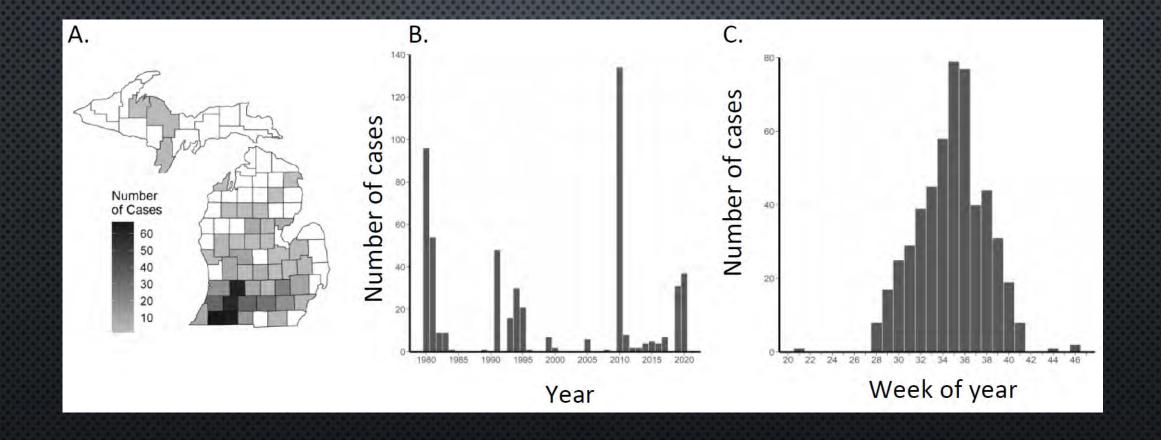
MICHIGAN'S 80-YEAR HISTORY OF EEEV TO DATE

- ESTIMATED 1,036 EQUINE CASES (CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED)
- 35 CONFIRMED HUMAN CASES
 - AGE RANGE: 1-81 YEARS
 - 70% MALE
 - DEATH RATE OF 35%
- SEASON: JULY-OCTOBER, PEAK IN AUGUST
- PREDICTABLE ECOLOGIC DISTRIBUTION (MOSTLY, COULD BE CHANGING)
- Studies have found EEEV in multiple MI mosquito and bird species
- EEEV is increasingly being detected in wildlife, including white-tailed deer and Ruffed Grouse
- OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES INFECTED INCLUDE CANIDS AND RATITES (EMUS)
- Recent years suggest northern spread into new and unsuspected ecologic foci





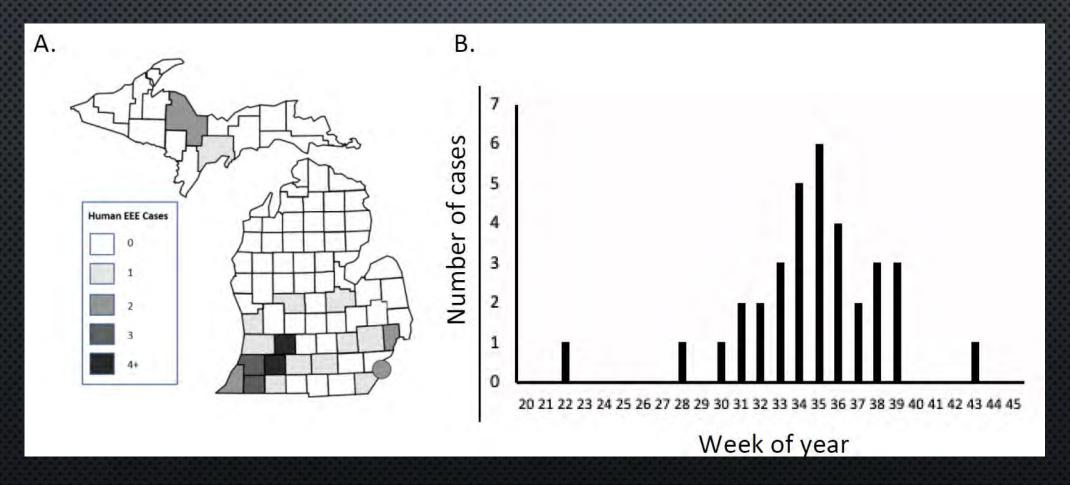
EQUINE CASE TRENDS







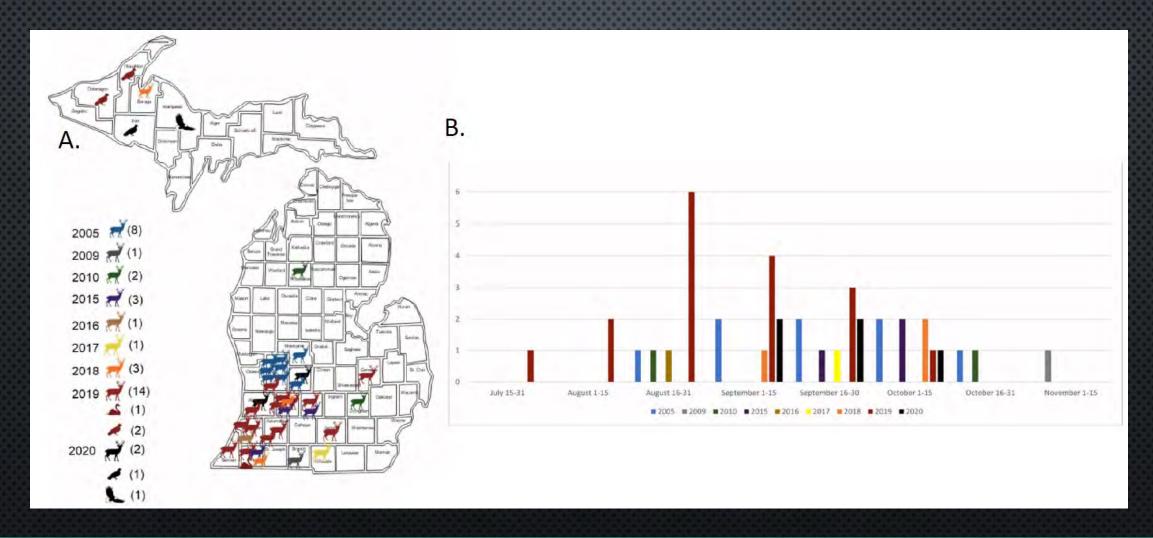
HUMAN CASE TRENDS







WILDLIFE CASE TRENDS







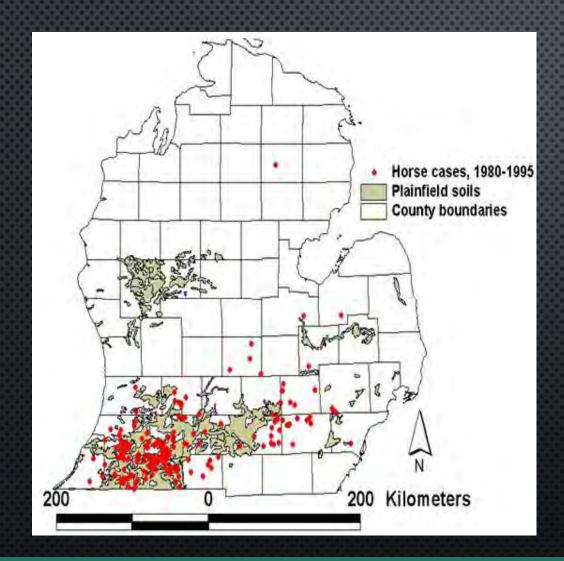


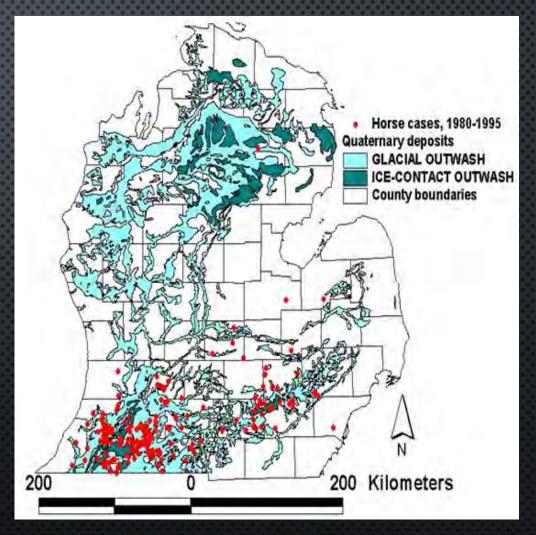
EEE HABITAT





GEOLOGIC FEATURES RELATED TO EEEV



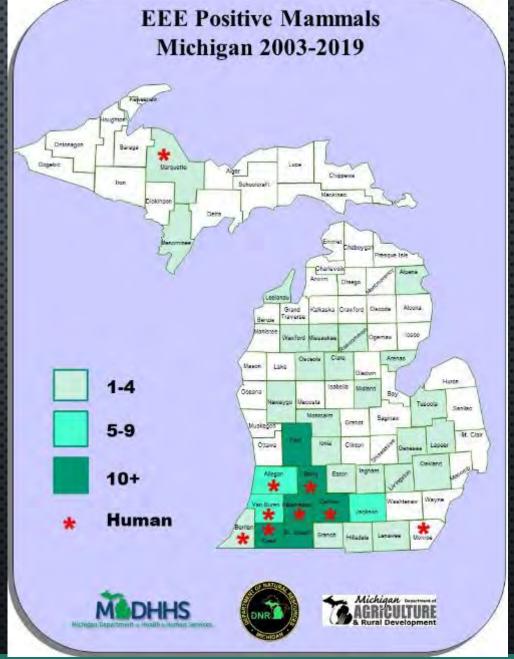






GEOGRAPHY OF EEE

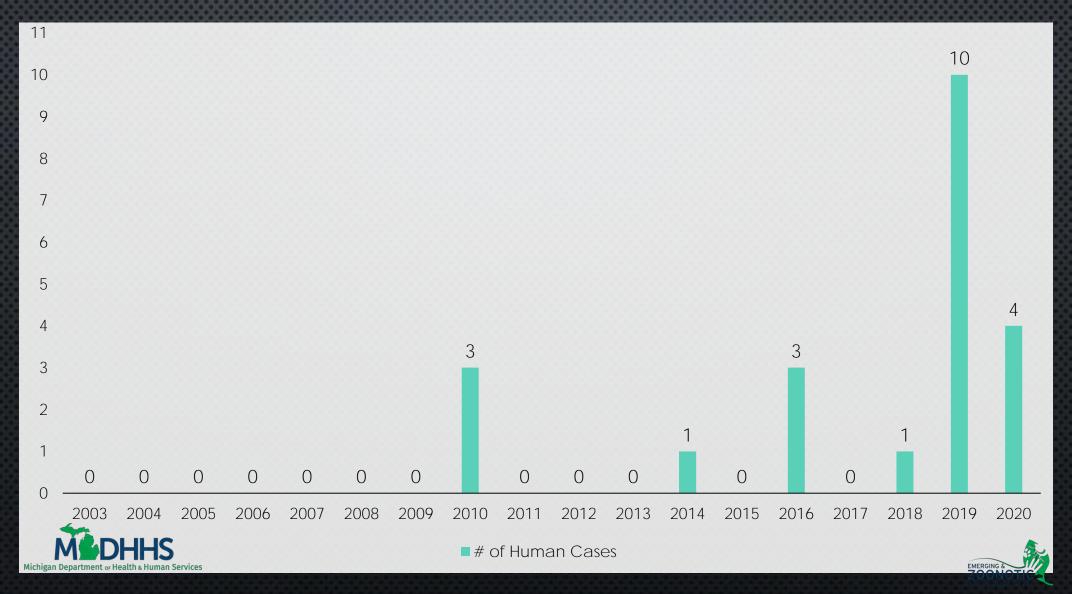
- SW MI has had greatest number of human and animal cases
- This is likely related to the area having lots of swamps and bogs, which provide habitat for the mosquitoes that transmit EEEV & bird hosts







HUMAN CASES OF EEE IN MICHIGAN, 2003-2020

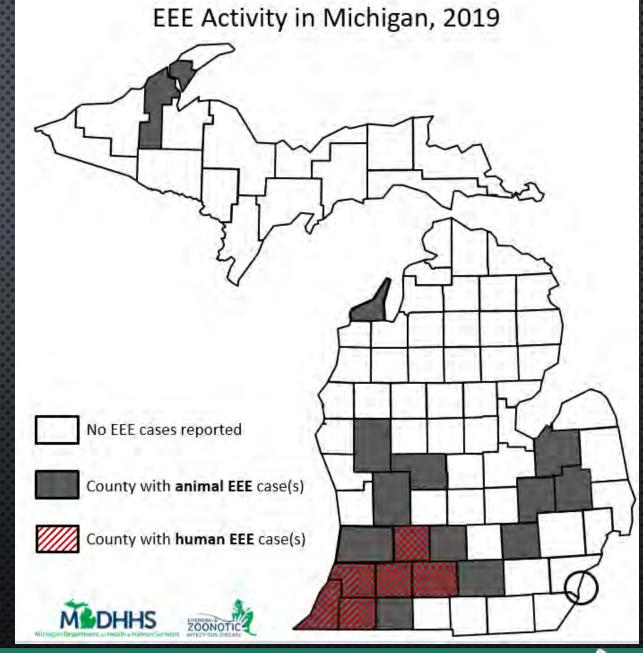






2019 EEE ACTIVITY IN MICHIGAN

- 10 human cases, 6 were fatal
- 50 animals tested positive
- 19 counties with positive cases
 - Most activity occurred in SW
- Positive animals included birds, horses, deer, & wolves
- Onset dates: July 22 Oct 11

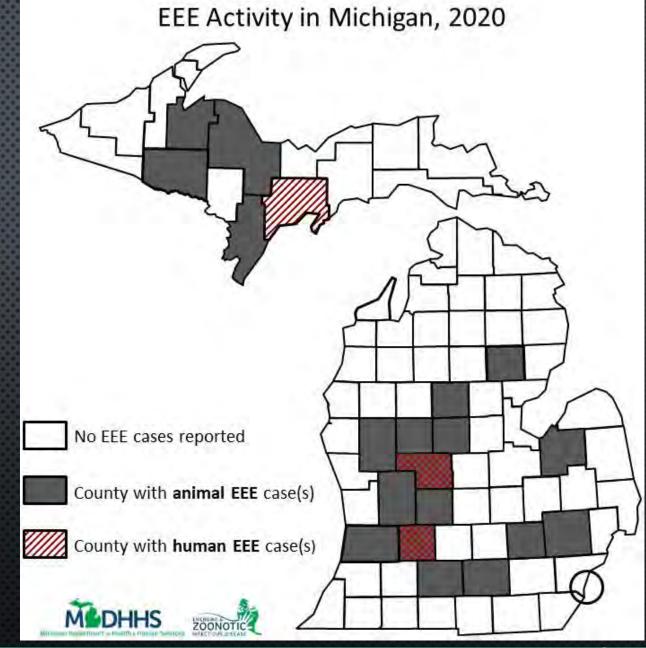






2020 EEE ACTIVITY IN MICHIGAN

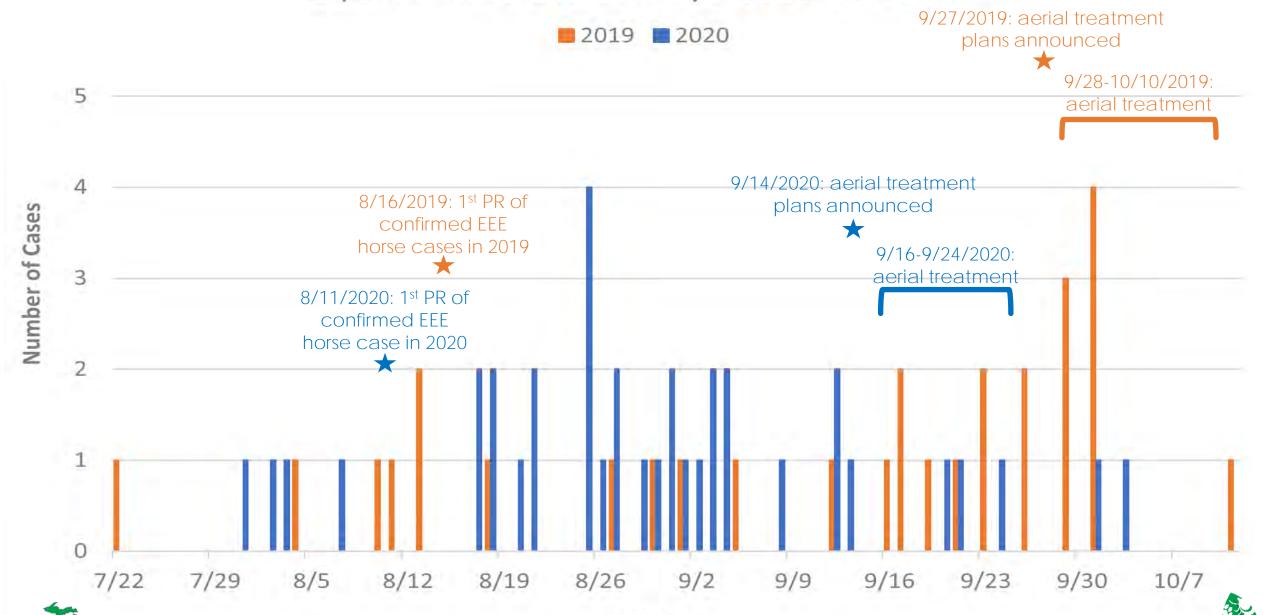
- 4 human cases, 2 fatal
- 41 animals
- 20 counties with positive cases
 - Most cases occurred in mid-MI
- Positive animals included horses, deer, birds
- Onset dates: July 31 Oct 18
- Surveillance affected by COVID-19







Equine Case Onset Days 2019 vs 2020



Date

2019 & 2020 EEE MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

- Without regular mosquito surveillance and control to give an early warning of mosquitoborne disease risk, MDHHS must assess risk by identifying cases in humans and horses.
- MSU & MDHHS conducted surveillance for EEE mosquitoes in 2019 and 2020 after first horse cases were identified. EEEpositive horses in 2019 & 2020 did not travel before becoming ill, indicating risk was localized
 - EEE vector mosquitoes were found, indicating ongoing risk to humans & animals





Coquillettidia perturbans

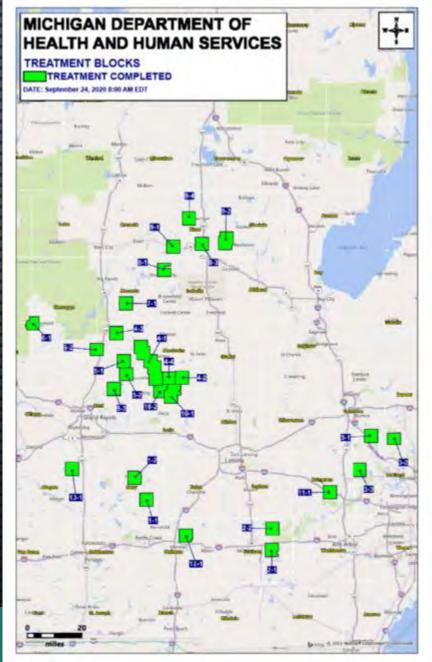




DECISION TO INITIATE AERIAL TREATMENTS

- By mid-Sept. 2020, Michigan had twice as many animal cases of EEE as we did in mid-Sept. 2019.
- The species of mosquito that transmits EEE was still being caught in traps
- MDHHS determined that a public health emergency existed
- Identified a contractor to perform treatments, obtained needed permits and waivers for pesticide (Merus 3.0) application
- Notified the public
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development issued an emergency rule temporarily amending the rule for notification and participation for community pesticide applications for aerial treatment across affected counties

2020 Mosquito Treatment Areas







AERIAL TREATMENT, 9/16-9/24/2020.

- Updated treatment maps daily based on weather conditions
- Daily calls with internal and external response partners
- Monitor weather for potential flight plan each day
- Alert local health of proposed treatment areas & product (Merus 3.0); put out daily press releases, updated website
- Monitored poison control, hospital data each day
- Approx. 462,000 acres treated





AERIAL TREATMENT DETAILS



- Aerial treatment involves the use of specially equipped airplanes, which spray a very fine mist of product as they fly. The tiny droplets drift through the air and kill adult mosquitoes that are flying around.
- In an outbreak, aerial treatment is the most effective control method when large areas must be treated quickly.
- Spraying from an aircraft allows treatment to be applied in places where trucks can't go (like swamps and wooded areas).
- Aerial treatment has been used in many other states.
- Monitoring of poison control and hospitals found no human illness associated with the treatment.
- No large-scale pollinator deaths were reported.





Perspective

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus — Another Emergent Arbovirus in the United States

David M. Morens, M.D., Gregory K. Folkers, M.S., M.P.H., and Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

November 21, 2019

N Engl J Med 2019; 381:1989-1992 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1914328

"In the absence of vaccines or specific treatments, state and local health departments can provide early warning of imminent human infections by surveilling equids, birds, and mosquitoes; however, even these blunt prevention tools are continuously threatened by underfunding of public health efforts."

"Arbovirus threats are not easily thwarted by piecemeal efforts."

"Although EEE is not yet a disease of major national importance, this year's spike in cases exposed our inadequate preparation for emergent disease threats. Though the best way to respond to these threats is not entirely clear, to ignore them completely and do nothing would be irresponsible."

TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

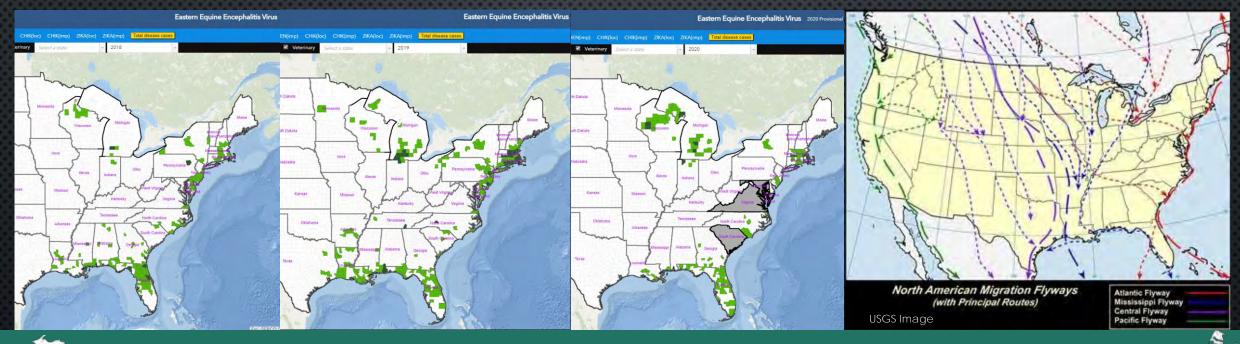
- 2019 marked the most human cases Michigan has ever recorded in a single year
- 2020 had high EEE risk in expanded geographic area. Mid-MI emerged as a new high-risk area.
- Arboviral illnesses are reported every year in Michigan
- Outbreaks of EEE can occur in large areas of the state
 - Risk varies each year
 - Weather and geography influence both historical and regional risk
- More mosquito surveillance is needed to better anticipate disease risk
- Controlling mosquitoes & arboviral diseases is complicated work that requires community support and sustained funding
- Preventing human disease requires a One Health coordinated approach





KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Much about the ecology of EEEV remains unknown or poorly understood
- WE NEED TO BE BETTER ABLE TO PREDICT OUTBREAKS TO MITIGATE THEIR IMPACT
- WHAT IS THE ROLE OF:
 - GEOGRAPHY/GEOLOGY
 - Birds and their movements
 - CLIMATE/WEATHER
 - OTHER FACTORS?







A National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and **Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans**

Solution





A NATION WHERE VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES NO LONGER THREATEN HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROTECT PEOPLE FROM ILLNESS, SUFFERING, AND DEATH DUE TO VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES



GOALS



Better understand when, where, and how people are exposed to and get sick or die from vector-borne diseases



Develop, evaluate, and improve tools and guidance for the diagnosis and detection of vector-borne diseases



Develop, evaluate, and improve tools and guidance for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases



Develop and assess drugs and treatment strategies for vector-borne diseases



Disseminate and support the implementation of effective public health and vector control products, tools, and programs to prevent, detect, diagnose, and respond to vector-borne disease threats

A National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans

THE PROBLEM

Americans are at an increasing risk of vector-borne diseases, and the United States is not adequately prepared to respond to these threats.



A COORDINATED APPROACH

To address the growing threat to public health, CDC, five federal departments, and the Environmental Protection Agency developed a joint National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans.



VISION

A nation where vector-borne diseases no longer threaten human health and well-being



MISSION

Protect people from illness, suffering, and death due to vector-borne diseases

GOALS



Better understand when, where, and how people are exposed to and get sick or die from vector-borne diseases



Develop, evaluate, and improve tools and guidance for the diagnosis and detection of vector-borne diseases



Develop, evaluate, and improve tools and guidance for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases



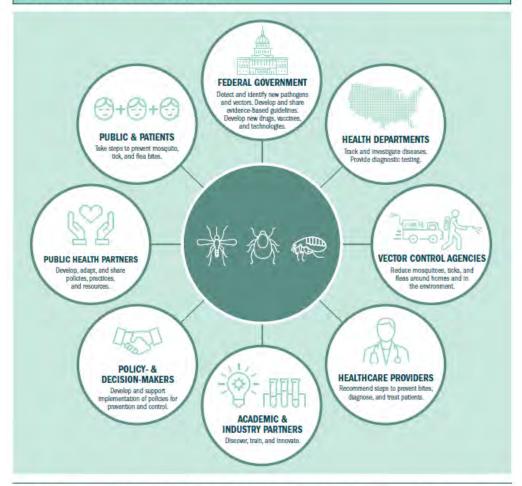
Develop and assess drugs and treatment strategies for vector-borne diseases



Disseminate and support the implementation of effective public health and vector control products, tools, and programs to prevent, detect, diagnose, and respond to vector-borne disease threats



WORKING TOGETHER: Protecting everyone from vector-borne diseases





Implementing the goals outlined in the National Public Health Framework requires continued partnerships, leadership, and excellence in innovation by public and private partners in order to prevent and control vector-borne diseases and save lives.



The National Public Health Framework was developed by the Departments of:

Health and Human Services · Agriculture · Defense · Homeland Security · Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency

S317820A

Diseases that may affect humans or animals.

MI Disease Mapper

Ticks and Your Health

Mosquitoes and Your Health

Being Safe Around - Animals

Q 🌣 🔇 Bed Bugs, Head Lice, and Scabies

> Diseases affecting wildlife

EMERGING DISEASE ISSUES

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi and is transmitted by the blacklegged tick. It is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the United States and it is spreading across the state of Michigan. Typical clinical signs include flu-like symptoms however, if left untreated may spread to joints, the heart, and/or the nervous system. The majority of cases can be treated successfully with antibiotics. Finding and removing ticks promptly can prevent Lyme disease.



Lyme Disease











Who is at risk?



National Lyme Disease Map

Anyone living or recreating where Lyme disease ticks may be present could become infected. Lyme disease is endemic (prevalent) in the Northeast, Northwest, and much of the North Central United States, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.



Michigan Lyme Disease Risk Map

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, multiple counties have wellestablished tick populations, due in part to the close proximity to Wisconsin. In the Lower Peninsula, the first confirmed infected population of blacklegged ticks were detected in 2002 along the west coast. Since that time, the tick and the bacterium have been invading northward along the Lake Michigan coast. However, currently, infected ticks are spreading and being detected across several portions of the Lower Peninsula.



Diagnosis and Testing

Treatment

Prevention

Educational Materials and Guidance Documents

Data Statistics and Maps





The Emerging Disease Issues - Michic X +

← → C michigan.gov/emergingdiseases



For additional information, visit: www.michigan.gov/eee

Michigan Emerging Disease Issues

Diseases that may affect humans or animals.

MI Disease Mapper

Ticks and Your Health

Mosquitoes and Your Health

Being Safe Around Animals

Bed Bugs, Head Lice, and Scables

Diseases affecting wildlife EMERGING DISEASE ISSUES

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

2020 EEE Outbreak Information

As of Oct. 1, EEE has been confirmed in 36 animals in 15 countles – 34 equine and two deer. To date, there is one confirmed human case in Barry County. There is an EEE vaccine available for horses, but not for people. Protecting horses with approved EEE vaccines is an important prevention measure.

In an effort to prevent spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), MDHHS has announced plans to conduct aerial mosquito control treatment in certain high-risk areas of Michigan. To prevent the loss of life and protect public health, MDHHS has determined a targeted aerial treatment plan is necessary. When there are high rates of animal infections, humans are just as at risk.

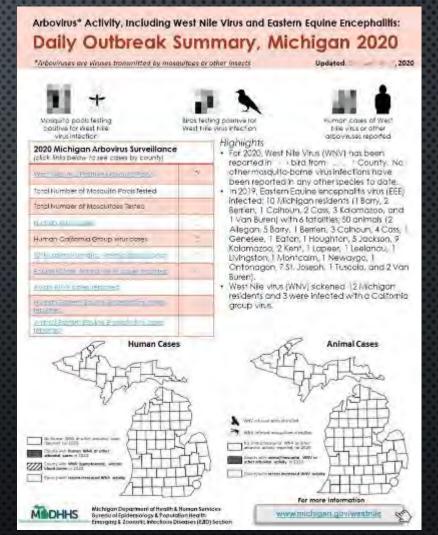
EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, with a 33 percent fatality rate in people who become III. People can be infected with EEE from one bite of a mosquito carrying the virus. Persons younger than age 15 and over age 50 are at greatest risk of severe disease following infection. More than 25 percent of the nation's EEE cases last year were diagnosed in Michigan. The risk of bites is highest for people who work and play outdoors in affected areas.

Update for Thursday, September 24

Aerial treatment to help prevent the spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis resulted in nearly 27,000 acres being treated in Blocks 4-4 and 10-2 on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Nearly 462,000 acres have been treated to date.

At this time, no additional treatment is planned, MDHHS will continue to monitor the situation and treatment zones could be added if new cases are found and aerial treatment would be effective to reducing risk of exposure.

The most up-to-date information will be posted here at Michigan.gov/EEE.







MDHHS BOL MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE TESTING

- Testing for mosquito-borne viruses should be considered in patients presenting with meningitis, encephalitis, or
 other acute neurologic illness in which an infectious etiology is suspected during the summer months in Michigan
- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories (MDHHS BOL) offers:
 - California Group encephalitis virus (CGV), now includes Jamestown Canyon virus
 - EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (EEE)
 - St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE)
 - West Nile virus (WNV)
- Testing is available free of charge through Michigan Healthcare providers for their patients
- Methodologies include:
 - IGM DETECTION FOR ARBOVIRUSES (CGV, JCV, EEE, SLE, WNV)
 - Molecular detection (PCR) for WNV only; others performed at CDC by special request
 - Plaque Reduction Neutralization Test (PRNT) as confirmatory test when indicated
- PREFERRED SPECIMEN FOR ARBOVIRUS SEROLOGY IS CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID (CSF), FOLLOWED BY PAIRED SERUM SAMPLES (ACUTE AND CONVALESCENT)





NEW FOR 2021 MDHHS BUREAU OF LABORATORIES ADDS MOSQUITO TESTING CAPACITY

- Beginning in 2021, the MDHHS BOL is offering pathogen testing of mosquito pools
- Available to Michigan jurisdictions conducting mosquito surveillance and control
- This is part of an effort to support the development of mosquito surveillance and Control programs at the local level





County Mosquito District Limited Township / City Surveillance WNV Community Surveillance and **VBDSP Project VBDSP Project**

MICHIGAN VECTOR SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY

- 4 MILLAGE-BASED DISTRICT MOSQUITO PROGRAMS
 - Bay, Midland, Saginaw, Tuscola
- LIMITED TOWNSHIP AND CITY MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE
 - ARENAC, GENESEE, GLADWIN, ISABELLA
- WNV COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE
 - Focused in areas that experience the most WNV activity
 - Detroit, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne
- Vector-borne Disease Surveillance program
 - EXPANDED GEOGRAPHIC RANGE AND MAGNITUDE OF MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE
 - Over 28,000 mosquitoes trapped, identified, and reported to mosquitoNET in 2019
 - ESTABLISH ROUTINE TICK SURVEILLANCE IN COUNTIES WITH BLACK-LEGGED TICK EMERGENCE, RISK FOR OTHER INVASIVE TICKS





TYPES OF MOSQUITO TRAPS

New Jersey Light Trap



Cq. perturbans – EEE Ae. vexans – dog heartworm Cx. pipiens – SLE, WNV, EEE

CDC Miniature Light
Trap



Cq. perturbans, Cs. melanura – EEE Ae. vexans – dog heartworm Cx. pipiens – SLE, WNV, EEE An. quadrimaculatus – malaria

and more...

CDC Gravid
____ Trap



Culex pipiens, Cx. tarsalis --SLE, WNV, EEE

BG-Sentinel
Trap



Ae. aegypti & Ae. Albopictus --Yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, Zika

and more...



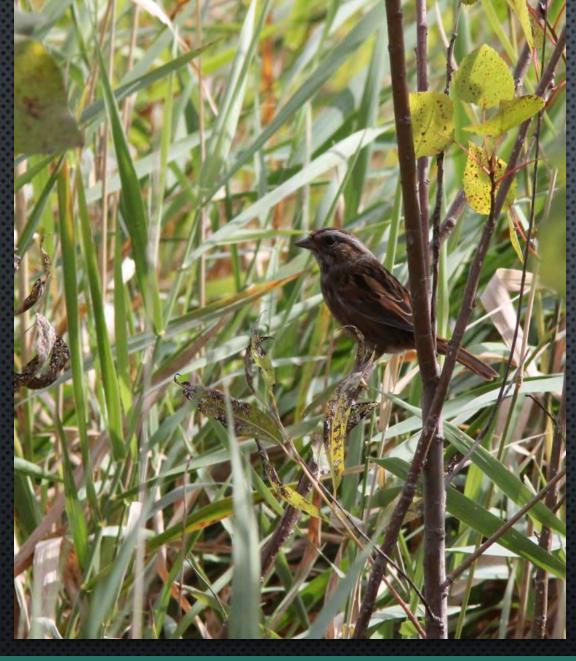


COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM

- Public support-and ongoing public education
- ADEQUATE FUNDING
- Stable and Trained workforce
- EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO CONDUCT MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE FOR THE TARGETED SPECIES
- Means of quickly testing mosquito pools for pathogens.
- ABILITY TO CONDUCT MOSQUITO CONTROL-LARVACIDING/ADULTICIDING
- ABILITY TO PERFORM PESTICIDE RESISTANCE MONITORING
- ONGOING HUMAN AND ANIMAL CASE SURVEILLANCE
- Means of regular communication with the public about risk and prevention
- Phased Arbovirus Outbreak response Plan
- PERMITS AND CONTRACTS IN PLACE IN THE CASE OF OUTBREAK EMERGENCY RESPONSE.







THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?





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