



## Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

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### Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Earlier this month, a white-tailed deer with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) was identified and euthanized in Barry County. EEE is not easily spread between animals or between animals and humans, but humans can get EEE through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most (95-96%) cases of human EEE do not cause any symptoms, and less than 1% develop serious illness. However, EEE is potentially serious and symptoms include fever, weakness, and muscle and joint pain. More severe illness can cause swelling of the brain and surrounding tissues. Anyone can be affected by EEE, but persons over age 60 and under age 15 are at greatest risk for developing severe disease.

This is the second white-tailed deer found to have EEE in Michigan in 2018. The first was found in Cass County in September. Additionally, there has been one human case of EEE in Michigan in Allegan County in 2018.

If you plan to spend time outdoors, protect yourself from mosquito bites by wearing long pants and sleeves and using DEET repellent. Additionally, remove buckets or other items outside your home that can hold standing water, which is where mosquitoes breed. Make sure to inspect window screens and repair any holes to keep mosquitoes out of the home. Mosquitoes can survive until there is more consistent frost. More information about EEE can be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>. Additionally, domestic horses can be vaccinated for EEE through your veterinarian.

If you experience any of symptoms mentioned above, seek medical attention and contact a healthcare provider. If you see a deer that is exhibiting strange behavior or appears sick, avoid handling or consuming the animal and visit <https://secure1.state.mi.us/ORS/Home> to report your observation. For questions regarding sick domestic animals such as horses, livestock, or pets, contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 517-373-1077.

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