



**PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA**

Central Michigan District Health Department  
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8413  
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

**To: Local News Media**

**From: Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director**

**RE: Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)**

**Release Date: September 21, 2011**

The Central Michigan District Health Department has been informed of the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a horse from the Standish, Michigan area. The horse has died of the disease.

EEE is a neurological disease that attacks the central nervous system. EEE causes swelling of the brain which often times leads to death. EEE can also affect humans. EEE is a relatively rare disease in humans. Since 2006 there have only been three human cases.

EEE is transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes. EEE is not transmitted from human to human and is not transmitted from horses to humans. Only mosquitoes can spread the disease.

EEE can be prevented in horses with the use of a vaccine. There is no vaccine for humans to prevent EEE.

The best method of avoiding EEE is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. The mosquitoes that transmit EEE are most active during the dawn and dusk periods of the day.

If you are outside during the hours of dawn and dusk you should take some simple precautions. Where DEET mosquito repellent, keep your skin covered as much as possible and decrease mosquito breeding areas.

The mosquitoes that spread EEE need just a small amount of standing water in which to lay their eggs. Emptying standing water in eaves troughs, bird baths, and other items that collect water will reduce mosquito breeding habitat around your home.

Non-vaccine protective measures against mosquito borne illnesses are available [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)  
Click on the West Nile Virus link under the Environmental Health information block.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

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