



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH
Public Health Director
Cayuga County Health Department
8 Dill St.
Auburn, NY 13021**



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The Cayuga County Health Department is reminding the public to continue to “Fight the Bite” this summer. Mosquitoes usually are considered a nuisance pest, but occasionally they can transmit viruses to people. Recently, mosquito pools in Onondaga County have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). In addition, West Nile Virus (WNV) is generally found in numerous places throughout New York State each summer.

It is important to take measures to minimize being bitten by mosquitoes.

If you are spending time outdoors, you should take the following precautions:

- Personal protection measures are recommended during outdoor activities and includes; wearing shoes and socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Consider using a mosquito repellent containing 20-30% DEET or Picardin. Follow the label directions. Wash your treated skin with soap and water after returning indoors.
- Make sure there are screens in your home’s windows and doors. Make sure they are free of rips, tears and holes

Reduce mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water on your property:

- Clean clogged rain gutters.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and wading pools when not in use.
- Change water in bird baths every few days.
- Properly maintain swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs; drain water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate low spots where standing water accumulates.
- Throw away or turn over outdoor containers, ceramic pots, or containers that hold water.
- Remove all tires from your property.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers that are kept outdoors

For more information, call the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560 or visit our website: www.cayugacounty.us/environmental
