



Meg Birmingham, RN, BSN
ACES Nurse Coordinator
203-498-6857
mbirmingham@aces.org

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Regarding Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

Although the risk of contracting Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in our area is very low, we take safety very seriously, and want families to know what we are doing to minimize potential risk.

EEE is a mosquito-transmitted virus that can cause infection of the brain. The Connecticut Agricultural Station has been trapping and testing mosquitos throughout CT since June. *No mosquitos have tested positive for EEE in any of the towns or cities where ACES schools are located.* The mosquitos that carry the virus are active until the first heavy frost.

ACES is following the recommendations of the health departments that serve our area by:

- Eliminating potential mosquito breeding sites on school property by emptying containers and areas that may contain standing water.
- Suspending or rescheduling school-sponsored after-school activities, to avoid having students outdoors when mosquitos are most active (dawn and dusk.)
- Avoiding trips to areas with probable mosquito breeding grounds, such as marshes

We ask families to help reduce risk of mosquito bites by following these same guidelines at home. In addition:

- Please send students to school in long sleeved shirts and pants for daytime outdoor activities.
- Parents may apply insect repellent containing DEET prior to school, according to product instructions, and as directed by child's physician.

For additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/index.html> Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.meridenct.gov/government/departments/health-and-human-services/mosquito-prevention-eee-and-wnv/>

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/civicax/inc/blobfetch.aspx?BlobID=35303>

<https://www.esdhd.org/node/283>

<http://qvhd.org/eee-faqs>

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact your school principal or me.

Thank you,

Meg Birmingham

Advocacy, Commitment, Excellence, Service

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 • Phone 203.498.6800 • Fax 203.498.6890 • www.aces.org

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