

US patient dies from rare mosquito-borne disease

August 28 2024



Health officials at Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services study specimens of anopheles mosquitoes that cause malaria, in Sarasota, Florida.

A person in the northeastern US state of New Hampshire has died after contracting the rare mosquito-borne eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)

virus, health authorities announced Tuesday.

The patient, identified only as an adult from the town of Hampstead, was hospitalized with severe central nervous system disease and later succumbed to the illness, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) said in a statement.

"The last reported human EEEV infection in New Hampshire was in 2014, when DHHS identified three [human infections](#), including two fatalities," the department said.

The new infection and death comes amid rising concerns from state officials across New England about the increasing risk of EEE, a threat believed to be exacerbated by climate change.

Earlier this month, Massachusetts announced the year's first human case of EEE in the state—a man in his 80s—and officials have asked the public to observe voluntary outdoor curfews, closed public parks, and initiated aerial and ground spraying to control the mosquito population.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, symptoms of [eastern equine encephalitis](#) include fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes and drowsiness.

It can also cause severe neurological disease, such as inflammation of the brain and membranes around the spinal cord, known as encephalitis and meningitis.

Approximately 30 percent of those infected die, and many survivors suffer ongoing physical or mental impacts. Individuals under 15 and over 50 are considered at higher risk.

There are currently no vaccines or treatments available.

Health officials advise using [insect repellent](#), wearing [protective clothing](#) outdoors and eliminating standing water around homes to reduce mosquito breeding sites.

A 2023 report by Climate Central highlighted that the number of "mosquito days"—warm, [humid conditions](#) ideal for mosquito activity—has increased across much of the U.S. over the past four decades due to human-caused climate change.

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