

**Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

August 21, 2014



**Horses in LGL Confirmed to Have Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)**

**Two horses in Lanark County have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV).**

EEEV is normally found in wild birds but can occasionally spread to horses and humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes that carry the virus are usually found close to woodlands.

Although there has never been a reported human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Ontario, it can be a very serious neurological disease in all age groups and can cause death.

**While a vaccine exists for horses, there is none for humans so the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit is issuing a reminder to everyone to take precautions against mosquito bites.**

**To help protect yourself and your family, please take the following steps:**

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing and on all exposed skin. (Don't apply it on the palms of your hands and your fingers, and keep it away from your eyes and mouth. Wash your hands after application. Be sure to follow directions and usage appropriate concentrations DO NOT USE personal insect repellents on children under two years of age.)
- Wear light-coloured clothing, long sleeves, pants and socks when outside.
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn, as mosquitoes are the most active at that time.
- Ensure that all containers in or around the yard such as tires, pool covers, saucers for flowerpots, wading pools and children's toys are regularly emptied of standing water.
- Ensure that screens, windows and doors are fully sealed to prevent mosquitoes from entering the house.

For more information about Eastern equine encephalitis virus, visit

<http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/biological.htm#WestNile>

You can also call the Health ACTION Line at 1-800-660-5853 or like us on Facebook for important updates.

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Contact:

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