

Weekly Epidemiologist Report

August 7, 2023

Prepared by: Christine M. DePierro-Gacek, Epidemiologist

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

The State of Connecticut's Agricultural and Experimentation Station (CAES) performs mosquito trapping and testing starting at the beginning of June and ending in late October. Arboviruses tested at CAES include: West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JC). CAES has trapped and tested 131,531 mosquitoes between June 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023. Testing sites are located in 89 towns. Newington and Wethersfield are the only towns in the CCHD with testing sites (see table below)., Wethersfield was the first town this year to report a mosquito positive with WNV. WNV activity has also been reported in Wallingford and Stamford. JC has been reported in West Haven and North Haven. There have been no human cases of EEE, JC, or WNV reported in Connecticut or our district yet this year.

Town	Site	Cumulative Mosquitoes Tested	Test Results	Virus	Mosquito Species (Positive Samples)	Date Collected
Newington	Churchill Park	865	Negative	-	-	-
Wethersfield	Goff Road	1,591	Positive	WNV (1)	Culex pipiens	7/17

To protect yourself against mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease, remember the 4 D's:

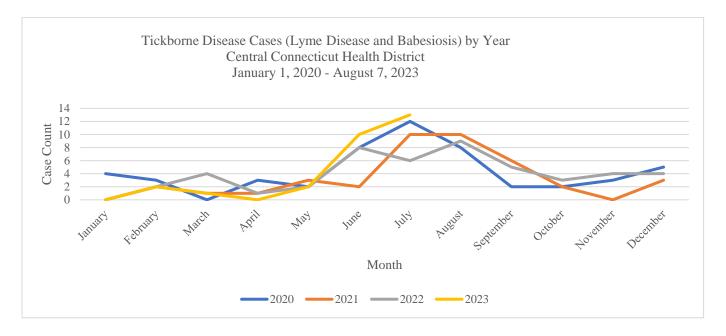
- 1. **Defend**: use an EPA registered mosquito repellent (DEET, picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535, or 2-undecanone)
- 2. **Dress**: wear light colored clothing with long sleeves, socks, and pants to minimize mosquito bites
- 3. **Dusk/Dawn**: avoid areas where mosquitoes are active from one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise
- 4. **Drain/Dump:** check around the home for containers or areas which hold water. Dump out once per week.

Data regarding mosquito-borne disease surveillance is collected from <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Mosquito-Testing/Mos



TICK-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

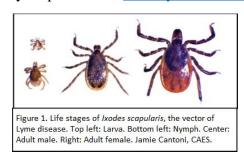
The line graph on the following page illustrates the trend in tick-borne disease cases (lyme disease and babesiosis) since January 1, 2020 in the district. Data for this year may change due to delays in reporting. It appears that this past July had the most cases of tickborne disease since 2020. Deer tick nymphs are still being found through the Connecticut Agricultural Experimentation Station's (CAES) Active Tick Surveillance Program. Be sure to examine yourself thoroughly after coming in from indoors.



To protect yourself against tick bites and tickborne disease, remember to B-L-A-S-T:

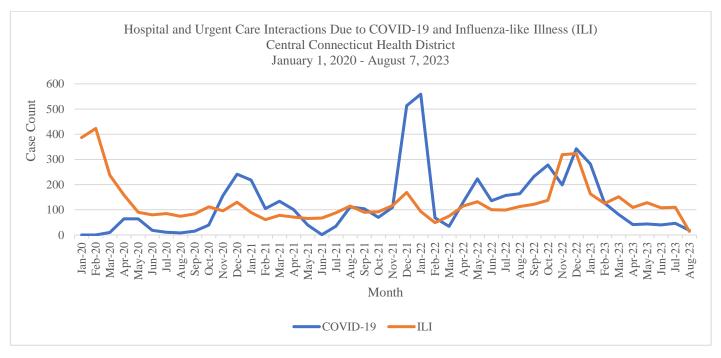
- B- Bathe or shower soon after coming indoors.
 - o Immediately put clothes in dryer on high heat for 20 minutes to kill any ticks that may be attached to them.
- L- Look for ticks and remove with fine point tweezers.
- A-Apply repellents
 - o Application of 30% DEET-based repellent is effective at repelling deer ticks.
 - Application of .5% permethrin-base insecticide to clothing is highly effective at repelling and even killing ticks.
- S- Spray tick habitat areas in your yard.
 - o www.spraysafeplaysafe.org
- T- Treat pets with veterinarian recommended products

For more information on BLAST Lyme please visit www.lymeconnection.org



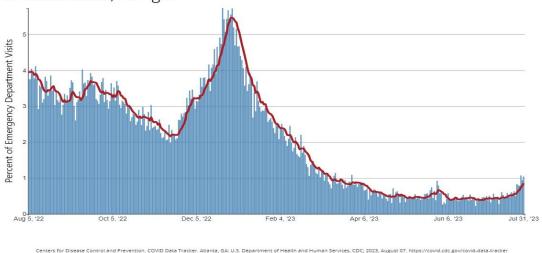
COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Data for COVID-19 and Influenza-like Illness Syndromic Surveillance was collected on August 7, 2023 from EpiCenter. The line graph below illustrates the syndromic surveillance of hospital and urgent care visits due to COVID-19 (those with a COVID-19 diagnosis and symptoms) and influenza-like illness (ILI). Other circulating respiratory viruses can present as influenza-like illness. The district has not received any reports of influenza types A or B since April 24, 2023. The high levels of ILI can be attributed to other respiratory diseases with similar symptoms to influenza (see the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Sureillance System Update).



The view below is of Emergency Department (ED) visits with diagnosed COVID-19 provided by the CDC. It appears the statewide 7-day moving average for all ages (red line) is increasing.





According to Biobot wastewater surveillance, genomic sequencing for Hartford County results showed that 73.9% of SAR-COV-2 viral fragments found in the wastewater were XBB and 25.6% were XBB.1.9. https://biobot.io/data/

NATIONAL RESPIRATORY AND ENTERIC VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NREVSS) UPDATE:

Data for the following CDC disease surveillance programs were updated on August 1, 2023.

All data is preliminary and subject to change.

Adenovirus

Nationally adenovirus antigen test positivity has increased from 0% to 10.8%. Adenvirus is the most common cause of respiratory illness. Adenovirus can also cause gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and less commonly, nuerological disease. For more information please visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/adenovirus/hcp/clinical-overview.html

Human Metapnuemovirus (hMPV)

The Northeastern levels of antigen test positivity remain undetected. HMPV can cause upper and lower respiratory disease in people of all ages. Common symptoms of HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. For more information visit: https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/human-metapneumovirus.html.

Human Parainfluenza Virus Types 1-3

Nationally, parainfluenza virus type 1 (HPIV) antigen test positivity has increased from 0 to 4.3%. HPIV 2 has increased from 0 to 1.1% and HPIV 3 antigen test positivity has decreased from 14.2 to 1.6%. HPIV is associated with croup and can cause upper and lower respiratory illness and cold-like symptoms. For more information on HPIV please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/parainfluenza/hcp/clinical.html

Norovirus

The Northeastern Region levels of PCR test posivity increased to 8.9%. Norovirus can remain on surfaces for weeks at a time and is extremly contagious. Symptoms of norovirus include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/index.html.

Respiratory Synctial Virus (RSV)

In the State of Connecticut, RSV (antigen and PCR) test positivity **undetected**. RSV can cause different types of respiratory illness, however it most commonly causes cold-like symptoms. It can cause serious illness, such as bronchitis and pnuemonia in infants and young children and people who are immunocompromised or who have chronic lung disease. For more information please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/clinical/index.html

Rotavirus

In the Northeast region, rotavirus antigen test positivity remains **undetected**. Symptoms of rotavirus include vomiting and watery diarrhea for three to eight days. Fever and abdominal pain is also common. Rotavirus is primarily transmitted through the fecal-oral route. For more information please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/rotavirus/clinical.html

Coronavirus

NREVSS conducts surveillance on four types of human coronaviruses other than SARS-CoV-2, which include CoV229E, CoVNL63, CoVOC43 and CoVHKU1. People around the world commonly get infected with these four common human coronaviruses. In the Northeastern region, test positivity for all four types remain below 1%.

FOOD RECALLS

Click the link to know what foods have been recalled because they are contaminated. Please check your cupboards and throw out any of these items: https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/

Our new clinic will be hosting an Open House tomorrow August 8th from 3:30 – 6:30, please stop by!



The Central Connecticut Health District is committed to improving the quality of life in our communities through prevention of disease and injury, fostering of a healthy environment, and promotion of the health of our residents.