

Report of the Health Officer

We would like to highlight some of our **accomplishments** over the past year.

- School Health Inspection conducted at Ellis School on January 30.
- Attended the Health Officer Spring Workshop on May 24.
- April is a member of the Health Officer Professional development Education Sub Committee.
- May 12-14 and May 19-21 conducted Renaissance Faire food inspections and contacted the NH Cosmetology Licensing Board for clarification on licensing of hair braiders for the upcoming 2024 event.
- Fielded several calls from Vector borne Disease/Infectious Diseases Surveillance Coordinator at the NH Department of Health and Human Services during the mosquito season on reports of mosquito borne diseases in our community and surrounding communities.
- October 6-8 conducted 18 Food Vendor Inspections at the annual Grass Drag event.
- UNH nursing students developed a food safety pamphlet that will be available to food vendors and community members.

In 2021, House Bill 79 brought numerous changes to RSA 128. Town Health Officers were impacted by:

- Reporting requirements of local Boards of Health
- Shall complete the required “3 Hour Training Course” as outlined in RSA 128
- Shall help to convene the local Board of Health (Fremont Select Board) to meet at least once per year to review the state of local public health issues and ‘readiness’ to respond. We met with the Fremont Select Board on November 2 to discuss public health threats and our readiness plan.
- April and Joanne completed the Health Officer training requirements in accordance with the provision of Revised Statutes Annotated 128:8 of the Laws of the State of New Hampshire on June 29.

Mosquitos continue to be a public health threat to our community. Voters recognize this threat and have continued to approve funding the mosquito control program. A contractor conducts active surveillance within our community so we can proactively respond to threats instead of waiting until a person or animal becomes ill, which is called passive surveillance. We can also target the threats as needed with spraying.

- One mosquito collected tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus in 2023
- Our Contractor collected a mosquito that tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).
- High probability that EEE will be identified again in 2024 as a result. The mosquito identified does not bite humans. Instead, it feeds on the migratory bird populations.

We also developed a **vision statement** this year.

- **Our goal is to use a preventative health lens when responding to health threats and to provide the residents of Fremont, NH with accessible resources and/or health education to improve overall health outcomes in our community.**

With our goal in mind, we look forward to piggybacking off work the Fremont Library has begun and to conduct a needs assessment of our community members in 2024. We look forward to collecting this information to identify community needs and highlight available resources. We will be partnering with UNH Nursing students to support this needs assessment project.

Respectfully submitted,

April Phelps, DNP, MSN-NE, RN, Health Officer
Joanne Cotton, MSPH, Deputy Health Officer

2023 Fremont, NH Mosquito Control Program - Year End Report

2023 was a very active year for mosquitoes in New Hampshire. With frequent heavy rainfall, we did not see the drought conditions of 2022. While great news for our forests and aquifer, the return to normal rainfall brings along a resurgence of mosquitoes as well. The mosquito population has recovered and this season saw a boon in floodwater species hatching in drainage ditches, and freshwater swamp species in the permanent wetlands.

Several of the species in higher abundance this year are vectors of arbovirus and this was reflected in the appearance of Jamestown Canyon Virus in Fremont (6/21/23). This is the second year that the NH Public Health Lab has been able to test all samples for JCV and it was detected in a number of other communities around the State. Because of this testing, and the tendency for JCV to be collected in spring mosquito species, the Public Health Lab began testing samples earlier in June and is likely to offer this testing schedule in 2024 as well. Eastern Equine Encephalitis appeared for the first time in 2023 in Fremont (10/4/23) and was found in larger numbers throughout Massachusetts and Maine. This increase in EEE prevalence, as well as larger populations of the vector species has led experts to anticipate 2024 could be a big year for EEE. To combat both viruses, the treatment program will have a stronger focus on early spring control next season.

Treatments were limited to Vectobac G bacterial larvicide for all treatments where larvae were surveyed at early instar stages. Vectobac was chosen due to its relative safety to non-target species and effectiveness against feeding larvae. BVA-2 larvicidal oil was used when pupae and 4th instar larvae were present. Additionally, BVA-2 was used for the last treatment of *Cs. melanura* crypts. Surveillance is difficult in these sites, but larvicidal oil was used to control this major vector of EEE before the spring hatch. Treatments yielded high efficacy to target larvae.

After Vectobac treatments, larvae were reduced 75-85% at 5 day post treatment surveys. BVA-2 treatments were nearly 100% effective against larvae and pupae with visible dead mosquitoes on surfaces within one day of treatment. At a five day post-treatment survey, the only larvae found were in pools missed with larvicide and newly hatched larvae.

NVMC wishes to thank the Town of Fremont for the privilege of serving your community and we look forward to providing responsive, high quality service in 2024. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your mosquito control program.

Sincerely,

Justin Adams
Director of Mosquito Control and Surveillance
Northeast Vegetation and Mosquito Control
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Cell: 207 451 8240

Anyone from Fremont with concerns or requests can Email: Fremont@northeastvmc.com
www.NortheastVMC.com



Hawk Photo taken near Bean Road
February 2023
Photo courtesy of Bob Meade
(former Health Officer and Building Inspector)

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

~ World Health Organization