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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Reading

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Reading, Massachusetts. Reading had *one (1)* EEE virus positive mosquito samples identified in 2009 and is 19th community in the state to have mosquitoes test positive for EEE. There have been 52 mosquito samples positive for EEE and only one(1) horse has tested positive. There have been no reported human cases of EEE in Massachusetts

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours - Be aware that most mosquito activity in October occurs during periods when temperatures are above 60 degrees. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.

- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Information about EEE and reports of EEE virus activity in Massachusetts during 2009 can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph under A for arbovirus in the Health Topics A to Z index. Recorded information about EEE is also available by calling the MDPH Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).