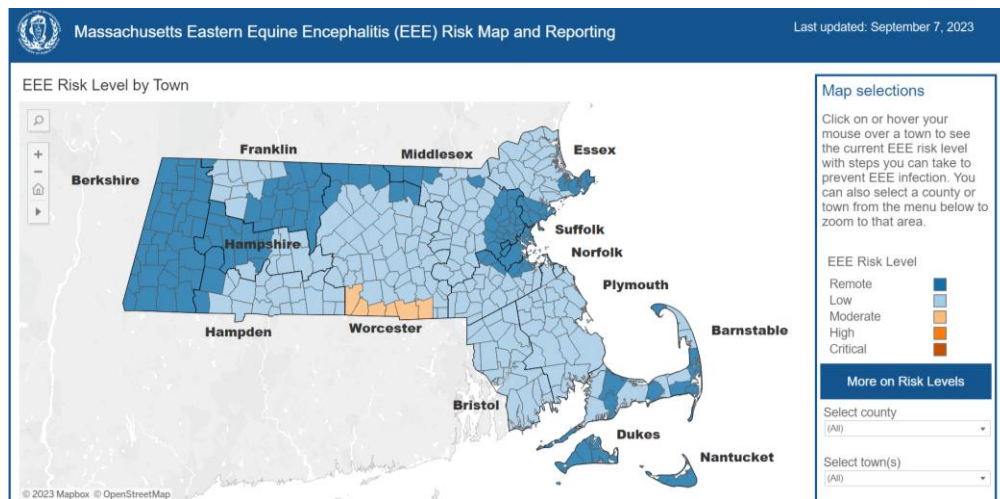


### EEE Update:

On Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Public Health announced the season's first Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus was detected in a mosquito sample. The presence of EEE was confirmed by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in mosquito samples collected on August 30 in Douglas and Southbridge in Worcester County, as well as another sample collected in Douglas on September 4<sup>th</sup>. No human or animal cases of EEE have been detected so far this year. These findings increase the risk level of EEE to moderate in the communities of Douglas, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Uxbridge, and Webster in Worcester County. For more information, click [here](#). To view the local risk levels for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) based on seasonal testing, click [here](#).



EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through an infected mosquito. There were no human cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2021 or 2022.

### Suicide Prevention Month:

September is suicide prevention month, which is an opportunity to raise awareness of suicide, eliminate stigma, share resources and services. Learn more about suicide prevention: [mass.gov/suicide-prevention-program](https://mass.gov/suicide-prevention-program).



988 is a free and confidential Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, available 24/7, 365 days a year via phone call, text, or chat ([988lifeline.org/chat](https://988lifeline.org/chat)). Individuals can reach out to 988 at any time to be connected to a volunteer or call taker on staff who can provide emotional support and compassionate listening, especially for those who are feeling isolated, may be experiencing a mental health crisis, or are worried about increasing distress or worry. For more information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, click [here](#).

All month, the Department of Health Suicide Prevention Program is hosting introductory training sessions on the impact of suicide and prevention strategies. They're open to public health professionals and the general public. Learn more: <https://ow.ly/R6fs50PH1Rm>