



Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, September 10, 2025)

### **Horse in Renfrew County and District Tests Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)**

A confirmed case of EEEV has been detected in a horse in Renfrew County and District. The animal had no history of travel and was not up to date on equine EEE vaccination. While this finding indicates local virus activity, EEEV infection in humans is rare and the risk to the public remains low.

EEEV is a mosquito-borne virus normally found in wild birds that can occasionally spread to horses and, rarely, humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. EEEV does not spread from horses to people or between people.

The mosquitoes that carry EEEV are typically found near wetland habitats, including swampy or flooded hardwood forests. Although human cases are rare, EEEV can cause severe neurological illness in people of any age and can be fatal.

There is a vaccine against EEE for horses, but there is currently no vaccine for humans. To reduce the risk of EEEV and other mosquito-borne infections, RCDHU reminds residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites:

- Apply a [Health Canada-approved](#) mosquito repellent containing DEET or icaridin and follow the label directions.
- When outside, wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made of tightly woven materials, including long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks to protect exposed skin.
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Remove standing water around your home (mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, even small amounts). 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.

Mosquito risk generally persists until the first hard frost. For more information on EEEV and how to protect yourself, visit [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) or call 613-732-3629 ext. 505.

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