



CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
24 Lowell Street
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 538-5926
Fax: (978) 538-5990

BOARD OF HEALTH
JOHN J. BARRY III, CHAIRMAN
STEPHEN S. KALIVAS, R.Ph.
EUGENE F. SMITH, M.D.

SHARON CAMERON
DIRECTOR

Dear Residents:

With the nice weather finally here, we wanted to provide you with some common-sense precautions to protect you and your loved ones from mosquito-borne illnesses:

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours.

- The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.

- Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors

- **Always follow the instructions on the product label!** Contact the manufacturer if you have still have questions after reading the label.
- For more information on insect repellents, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/>

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- Fix any holes in screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all doors and windows.
- Remove any standing water from backyards so mosquitoes can't breed. Mosquitoes will begin to breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. Make sure water does not collect and stagnate in ceramic pots, trash cans, recycling containers, old tires, wading pools, birds baths, etc. Remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of roof gutters.

For more information, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Website, www.mass.gov/wmv. You can also contact the Peabody Health Department at (978) 538-5926 if you have questions.

Please note: Since West Nile Virus has been present in our local bird population, the Peabody Health Department **will not** be testing dead birds on a routine basis. Residents who find dead birds on their property should dispose of the bird following the following procedure:

- Do not touch a bird with bare hands. Use a shovel or other tool and wear gloves.
- Use double plastic bags to seal up the bird.
- Place double-bagged bird in the trash for disposal.
- Wash hands with soap and water, and clean and disinfect any tools used.