WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

West Nile Virus (WNV)

- EEE and WNV are carried by mosquitoes.
- Need to take extra precautions against mosquito bites, especially after dusk.
- If possible, stay inside after dusk.
- Everyone should wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and shoes and socks when outside. Also apply insect repellent to clothes to help prevent bites.
- Apply insect repellent that contains DEET, as the active ingredient.
- Do not use insect repellent on children under 2 months old but cover them in clothing that covers arms, legs and feet.
- Strollers and baby carriers can also be covered with mosquito netting.
- Tape up any holes in window screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- Make sure there is NO standing water around your house (kiddie pools, old tires). This is where mosquitos lay their eggs.
- Anyone can get sick, but young children and people over 50 are at the greatest risk.

Signs of EEE and WNV include:

- Sudden fever
- Chills
- Body and joint aches

The disease can develop into severe encephalitis, resulting in headache, disorientation, tremors, seizures and paralysis. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms go see your health care provider or the emergency room.

Source: Genesee County Health Department, 9-18-2019, ET.