



Senator Patty Ritchie
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FIGHT THE BITE!

Protect Yourself and Your Family from EEE

An Important Message from Senator Patty Ritchie, the Oswego County Health Department and the Family of Maggie Sue Wilcox.

Senator Ritchie took Oswego County's fight against EEE to Albany—and won!

- ✓ Assembled a panel of experts to find better ways to fight EEE
- ✓ Won State Budget funding for mosquito control
- ✓ Forged closer ties with Albany and CNY counties battling EEE
- ✓ Created a program for low-cost vaccine for farmers and horse owners
- ✓ Secured funding to eradicate mosquitoes on private land

Senator Ritchie secured \$150,000 in the State Budget to help Oswego County pay costs of aerial spraying to control mosquitoes, fund a low-cost horse vaccination program and provide anti-mosquito larvicide treatments to private landowners. Check my website for updates and details.

www.ritchie.nysenate.gov

"I thank you for the update on the Maggie Wilcox tragedy. Thank you for caring about the people in this area. This would not be the first time you have done something that I thought was above most others."

Jodi L. - Oswego



STAY SAFE FROM EEE

What is EEE?

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is a rare but serious viral disease spread by mosquitoes. There are 5-10 human cases in the US annually.

Who is at risk?

Everyone - but people over 50, and under 15, are at greatest risk of serious infection.

Is there a vaccine for EEE?

No. But Senator Ritchie has sponsored legislation to help develop a human vaccine.

What are the symptoms?

Severe cases begin with a sudden onset of headache, high fever, chills and vomiting. Seek immediate medical help.

When do symptoms occur?

4-10 days after a bite from an infected mosquito.

From the NYS Department of Health



Special Information for Horse Owners

EEE can infect humans, but it is much more common in horses, and has resulted in deaths of dozens of horses in Central New York in recent years. While there is not yet a human vaccine for EEE, there is for horses. Ask your veterinarian about the EEE vaccine for your horses.



FIGHT THE BITE!

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EEE



From Senator Patty Ritchie and the
Oswego County Health Department

"EEE is one of the most severe mosquito-transmitted diseases."

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The best protection from EEE is to keep mosquitoes from biting you.

- Use insect repellent containing DEET.**
Always follow all directions and precautions on the product label.
- Wear long-sleeves and pants.**
Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing. Spraying repellent on clothes can help.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours.**
Dusk to dawn are peak biting hours, but some mosquitoes bite all day. Consider staying indoors when mosquitoes are most active.
- Fix your screens.**
Mosquitoes can enter your home through rips and tears in screens and open windows.
- Drain standing water.**
Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water in flower pots, buckets, bird baths, clogged gutters and yard debris.

"Thank you, Senator Ritchie, for making sure that our 'Moo' didn't die without something positive for Oswego County coming as a result."

*Donna Wilcox
Aunt of EEE Victim Maggie Sue Wilcox*

What is being done to control mosquitoes?

Following last year's tragic death of 4-year old Maggie Sue Wilcox from EEE, Oswego County and New York State are stepping up efforts against EEE in 2012:

- ✓ The county is doubling the number of testing areas and adding new staff to help spot EEE sooner.
- ✓ State health officials will double the number of tests it performs to detect EEE in Oswego County.
- ✓ CNY counties are working together more closely than ever to be ready to respond to EEE this year.

