



Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693

Health Officer Update September 26, 2023

1. More mosquito and tick borne illness in the area.

This is in follow up to the update sent out on August 3, 2023 about insect/tick pests in the area.

This news came out yesterday:

“The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) is announcing the State’s first human case of [Jamestown Canyon Virus](#) (JCV) infection in an adult from Hillsborough County. In addition, DPHS is reporting two cases of [Powassan Virus](#) (POWV), one in an adult in Rockingham County and one in a child from Carroll County. Risk for both mosquito- and tick-transmitted infections remains high, and the Department urges residents and visitors to continue to take steps to prevent mosquito and tick bites.”

No further mosquito testing has found any viruses this summer on New Castle.

Below are resources for further information. Additionally, We will resend the August 3 email with prevention information attached below.

- [NH Arboviral Illness Surveillance, Prevention and Response Plan](#)
- National data on JCV and POWV, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/jamestown-canyon/statistics/current-season-data.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/powassan/statistics-data/current-season-data.html>.
- Anyone with questions about vector-borne illnesses can call the DPHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. More information can also be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/jamestown-canyon/index.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/powassan/index.html>.

2. As most of you know, COVID is on the rise again. Please take appropriate precautions.

- a. You can receive up to 4 free COVID tests per address from the government via this website:

Covidtests.gov

- b. There is an updated COVID vaccine for which you can sign up at most drugstores etc. It is more directed towards the current circulating variant. This is what the CDC says about whom should receive it:

Follow these guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Everyone ages 5 years and older should get 1 dose of the updated Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least two months after getting the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

For children ages 6 months through 4 years old, the CDC recommends 2 or 3 doses of the updated COVID vaccine depending on which vaccine they receive.

The official name for this new XBB.1.5 monovalent version is the 2023-2024 COVID vaccine

To find COVID-19 vaccines near at locations near you: Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), test your zip code to 438829, or phone 800-232-0233.

3. **Please discuss with your health care provider obtaining the flu shot (CDC recommends it for everyone) and RSV shot.**

Health Officer Update August 3, 2023

Notification of Positive Mosquito Test: Low Risk to New Castle Residents

The Town of New Castle received notification this week that two batches of mosquitos tested positive for **the Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV)**. These mosquito batches were collected on July 18, 2023.

This is considered a LOW-RISK situation, according to the NH Dept. of Health & Human Services.

JCV is an arbovirus, just like the West Nile virus (WNV) and the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus, both of which are more common than the JCV. Arboviruses are transmitted to humans from infected mosquitos from spring until fall. Biting mosquitos only disappear after two statewide hard frosts. JCV infection is rare; only 19 cases statewide have been reported since 2013.

JCV Symptoms and Diagnosis

Many people who get infected with JCV have no symptoms at all. Others may have mild symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, fatigue, dizziness, or headache. In rare cases, JCV can cause brain inflammation (encephalitis) or spinal cord inflammation (meningitis). The only way to know if someone is infected is to send a blood or spinal fluid sample to a testing lab.

JCV Treatment and Prevention

There is no specific treatment for JCV and no vaccine.

Personal protection is the best way to reduce the risk of infection by avoiding mosquito bites in the first place.

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites while enjoying the outdoors, *especially in the evening and dawn hours*:

- Adults and kids over the age of 2 months can apply mosquito repellants containing DEET (up to 30%) or other EPA-approved product. Read here to learn how to apply to young children: [Choosing an Insect Repellent for Your Child - HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org/healthy-living/pest-control/choosing-an-insect-repellent-for-your-child).
- Wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and pants, and socks
- Use netting covers over baby strollers and playpens.
- Install screens on windows and repair any screens that have holes or tears.
- Remove standing water around the home weekly, especially in spare tires, buckets, planters, kiddie pools, flowerpots, and empty wheelbarrows to remove mosquito breeding sites.



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- Change water in birdbaths twice weekly.
- Check that roof gutters are draining properly and not collecting standing water.
- Mow grass regularly and thin or trim brush in your yard.
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What is the Town doing?

For many years, New Castle has had an annual contract with Municipal Pest Management Services, Inc. to perform routine, active mosquito and larvae surveillance in tidal salt marshes and other town-owned properties where natural, fresh water gathers. If mosquito larvae are found, they are treated with a naturally-occurring organic bacteria called BTI. This bacteria is naturally found in the soil and has been used for mosquito control for more than 30 years. It is an effective and EPA-approved larvicide with minimal effects on other non-larval species. It is not the spray that kills adult mosquitos.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have questions, please email healthofficer@newcastlenh.org or leave a message for the health officers at (603) 431-6710 Ext. 1.

SOURCES and ADDITIONAL READING

[jamestowncanyon \(nh.gov\)](http://jamestowncanyon.nh.gov)

[Jamestown Canyon Virus | Jamestown Canyon virus | CDC](#)

[arboviralresponse.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#)

[Larvicides | Mosquitoes | CDC](#)

[Choosing an Insect Repellent for Your Child - HealthyChildren.org](#)

[DHHS Identifies Season's First Positive Test for Jamestown Canyon Virus in Mosquito Batch in Keene | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services \(nh.gov\)](#)

[han-mosquitoborne-disease-2023-06232023.pdf \(kensington.nh.us\)](#)

Yours in health,

Kathy Hollister, MD; Public Health Officer

Diane Coniglio, PharmD; Deputy Public Health Officer

Town of New Castle