

Mosquito Response Committee Update – June 2020

According to the World Health Organization, there are thousands of deaths annually caused by pesticides. Why do we want to contribute to this problem?

First, we want to take proactive measures to do what we can to reduce the need for any treatments which might have an unintended impact on the environment.

Categorizing all pesticides in the same category and claiming they all cause these deaths is a scare tactic which completely ignores the increased health risk to Bolton citizens if we do nothing.

Residents have the option of excluding their property from spraying. We also encourage Bolton citizens not to request the spraying of their property and to rely on the Board of Health to determine the need for spraying based upon mosquito surveillance information and the recommendations of CMMP.

The deaths in Massachusetts due to Arbovirus have occurred in towns that already participate in the Massachusetts Mosquito Programs. Therefore, this proves the mosquito programs are not effective.

Perhaps there would have been significantly more deaths in these towns had they not been trying to mitigate the problem. This is like saying that because there were deaths due to CoVid-19 in Massachusetts the mitigations steps we are all taking are a waste of time.

The town has voted not to join CMMCP several times, why are you proposing this again and what is different about this proposal?

Compared to the presentation done 5+ years ago, the major differences are:

- More emphasis on surveillance and better trap technology
- They have more than doubled their staff scientists (biologists and entomologists) to test efficacy of techniques and treatment resistance
- Significantly enhanced the turnaround time of lab test results
- Improved spraying technology (Use of GPS, better weather data to control spray drift)

Another key consideration is the recent deaths of Massachusetts residents due to EEE. The health threat now versus 5+ years ago is much more serious. Additionally, within the past 5 years, public awareness and outreach of the importance of controlling the spread of deadly viruses has increased.

Additional information about the current CMMCP is on their website www.CMMCP.org

The state would conduct aerial spraying over Bolton Flats, but CMMCP says they will avoid spraying within 300 ft. of Bolton Flats. Does this mean the product they use is more toxic than what is used by the state?

We are not sure whether the state would conduct aerial spraying over Bolton Flats since it is the recommendation of the EPA that spraying not be conducted within 100 feet of any fish-bearing waters. Bolton Flats contains the Nashua and Still Rivers, both of which are cold water fisheries. CMMCP policy is to avoid spraying within 300 feet to be more cautious. The spray used by CMMCP is apparently less toxic than the spray used for the aerial spraying last fall, according to a recent conversation with Tim Deschamps.

For a definitive answer regarding the Flats regarding their input or reasoning, it would be best to reach out to a Wildlife Management Area Staff.

What other alternatives have you explored?

We have reached out to local farmers to learn about the services they use to control insects on their farms.

In addition, we contacted the director of the UMass Amherst epidemiology lab, a company called Vector Disease Control International and talked to experts who have tried to create their own mosquito control programs.

Based on this research and an extensive cost analysis, the town estimates that it will need one microbiologist and two seasonal surveillance technologists to self-perform: surveillance, catch-basin treatment and continuing the tire recycling program. Total cost for self-performance is \$240,069 plus cost of athletic field / town property spraying in the first year, including \$106,000 in non-recurring expenses.