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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CANCELLATION OF OUTDOOR EVENING MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES IN  
 GRAFTON**

On Friday, August 16, 2019 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) confirmed a human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a Grafton resident raising the Town’s risk level to critical. On Monday, August 19, 2019 positive EEE mosquito samples were also found in Grafton. In response to the elevated risk to the public’s health, steps have been taken to mitigate exposure. This includes aerial spraying to be coordinated by MDPH and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Once more information is available on the dates of aerial spraying, updates will be provided to residents.

Residents are urged to sign up for Code Red via the Town’s Website at [www.grafton-ma.gov](http://www.grafton-ma.gov) to receive updates via telephone, text, email or all three.

In addition the Grafton Board of Health voted last night, at a joint Board of Health and Select Board meeting, to cancel all outdoor activities on Town and School owned property after dusk. This is not a strong recommendation but a requirement. Individuals are encouraged to take simple precautions to reduce risk, specifically to follow the 5 D’s:

- **Dawn and Dusk** – when mosquitos are most active
- **Deet** – use insect repellent with Deet or other natural repellants
- **Dress** – wear long sleeves and pants to cover exposed skin
- **Drain** – remove standing water from kiddie pools, flower pots, tires, etc.

Repairing holes in window or door screens is also encouraged. For more information on EEE, visit <https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases>.

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