



Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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For Immediate Release

Date: Thursday, September 2, 2010 12:00 pm
From: Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency
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Contact: Steve Todd, Health Officer, 517-279-9561 ext 148

RE: Four (4) additional horses diagnosed with Eastern Equine Encephalitis

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency has been informed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture that 4 additional Horses in St. Joseph County have been diagnosed with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Eastern equine encephalitis is a virus that typically affects horses and can be spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE is a vaccine preventable disease in Horses. There is no vaccine available to protect Humans. EEE in Humans is rare with most people who become infected having no symptoms. However, in a small number of cases people can develop a headache, high fever, chills, and vomiting. The illness can then progress to disorientation, seizures or coma. There have been 3 Human cases in the southwest Michigan this summer with these people requiring hospitalization.

The Health department is encouraging residents to understand the health risks associated from mosquito bites and to reduce their exposure to mosquito bites by using mosquito repellants, wearing long pants and shirts with long sleeves. Additional information is available the our website www.bhsj.org