

Michigan man went from 'perfectly healthy to brain dead' in 9 days after contracting rare mosquito-borne disease, report says

A man from Michigan went from “perfectly healthy to brain dead” in nine days after contracting a rare-mosquito-borne disease, according to a local report.

Gregg McChesney, 64, died last month after a “nine-day illness,” according to his obituary. McChesney, of Kalamazoo County, reportedly died from Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). The disease is sometimes called Triple E, or sleeping sickness.

MICHIGAN WOMAN BLAMES EEE FOR FATHER'S DEATH, COULD MARK FOURTH IN US FROM RARE MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUS



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BREAKING: MDHHS reports two additional deaths related to #EEE. That brings the total to three fatal cases in Michigan this summer. Ironically, I just spoke with Gregg McChesney's family today. He's the Kalamazoo County patient who died last month from the mosquito-borne disease.

MDHHS reports four new cases of mosquito-borne disease and two additional deaths in Southwest Michigan

State taking action to prevent further Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases

LANSING, Mich. – State residents are being strongly advised by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to protect themselves from mosquito bites as four additional cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been confirmed in Southwest Michigan – including two that were fatal.

MDHHS is taking further action to protect the public health as the mosquito-borne disease remains a threat that has now resulted in seven confirmed human cases of EEE in Michigan with onset dates in July. The new cases expand the geographic area affected by human EEE cases to include Barry, Cass and Van Buren counties, along with previously identified cases in Kalamazoo and Berrien counties. Two of these additional cases, in Cass and Van Buren counties, were fatal, as was an earlier case in Kalamazoo County.

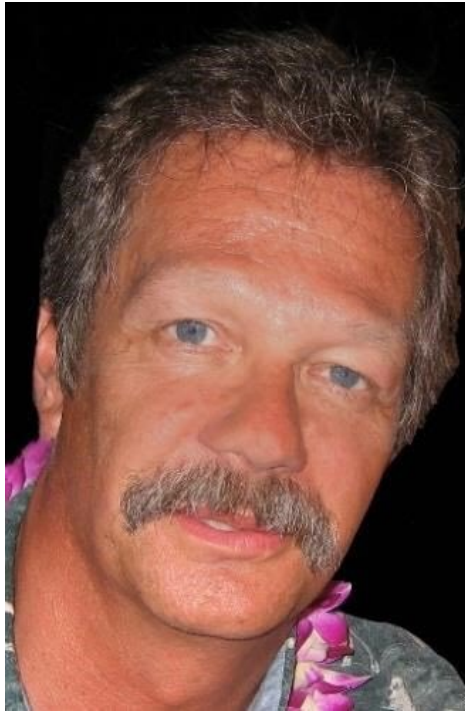
MDHHS is encouraging local officials in the five Southwest Michigan counties that have been impacted by human EEE cases and St. Joseph, Genesee and Lapeer counties – which have had animal EEE cases – to consider postponing, rescheduling or cancelling outdoor activities occurring at or after dusk, particularly activities that involve children. This would include events such as late evening sports practices or games or outdoor music practices. The MDHHS recommendation is being made out of an abundance of caution to protect the public health and applies until the first hard frost of the year.

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department also issued a recommendation to local municipalities and schools to consider cancelling outdoor events or moving them inside if they are scheduled at or after dusk.

"Michigan is currently experiencing its worst Eastern Equine Encephalitis outbreak in more than a decade," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. "The ongoing cases reported in humans and animals and the severity of this disease illustrate the importance of taking precautions against mosquito bites."

All Michigan residents can stay healthy by following these steps to avoid mosquito bites:

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered product to exposed skin or clothing, and always follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Apply insect repellent to clothing to help prevent bites.
- Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes may lay eggs.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.



“Late July, he was here at the farm helping me put docks in at the pond,” WOOD-TV reported McChesney’s brother Mark as saying on Tuesday. “He was perfectly healthy, happy human being and within a matter of nine days he went from perfectly healthy to brain dead.”

He told the station that his brother had a seizure and “next thing you know, he’s in the ER and he just never came out of it.”

RHODE ISLAND SEES FIRST EEE DEATH SINCE 2007, OFFICIALS SAY

Several days after Gregg McChesney had died, doctors reportedly confirmed that he had the mosquito-borne illness EEE.

“Right off the bat, we were like: ‘How could this happen? What did happen?’” Mark McChesney reportedly said. “We just didn’t know and the doctors were just doing everything they could to try to say it was this or that, and they just couldn’t figure it out.”

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) tweeted on Tuesday that four additional cases of EEE have been confirmed in southwest Michigan, including two that were fatal.



Michigan HHS Dept@MichiganHHS

MDHHS is strongly urging residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites

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<http://bit.ly/2kOERNc>



“The mosquito-borne disease remains a threat that has now resulted in seven confirmed human cases of EEE in Michigan with onset dates in July,” the department said in a news release.

MASSACHUSETTS GIRL, 5, CONTRACTS DEADLY EEE VIRUS, IN CRITICAL CONDITION: REPORT

“Michigan is currently experiencing its worst Eastern equine encephalitis outbreak in more than a decade,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “The ongoing cases reported in humans and animals and the severity of this disease illustrate the importance of taking precautions against mosquito bites.”

EEE is one of the most dangerous mosquito-borne diseases in the country, with a 33 percent fatality rate in people who contract it, the news release said.

Symptoms include a sudden fever, chills and body and joint aches, which can progress to severe inflammation of the brain, resulting in headaches, disorientation, tremors, seizures, and paralysis.

In some cases permanent brain damage, coma, and death are the tragic outcome, according to MDHHS.

Nine cases of EEE in horses had been confirmed as well and all the animals have died, the health department said.

McChesney is survived by his wife, son and two grandchildren.

Officials in Rhode Island have confirmed three human cases of EEE this season.

The state health and environmental management departments said Tuesday that two people, a child younger than 10 years old from Coventry and an adult over 50 from Charlestown, have been discharged from the hospital and are recovering. A West Warwick resident died last week.

Communities at critical risk in Rhode Island were aeriually sprayed with a pesticide last week.

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In neighboring Massachusetts, officials confirmed the state's eighth human case of the virus on Friday, one of which was fatal.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Source:

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/michigan-man-went-from-perfectly-healthy-to-brain-dead-in-9-days-after-contracting-rare-mosquito-borne-illness-report-says>

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