



**Ashtabula County Health Department**  
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**Raymond Saporito, M.P.H., R.S.**  
Health Commissioner

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DATE: August 30, 2019  
TO: Veterinarians, Animal Hospitals & Clinics of Ashtabula County  
FROM: Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD)  
RE: Horses infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis

I am reaching out today to advise you that the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has confirmed the first positive case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus in a horse in Ohio in 2019.

A horse in Southern Ashtabula County was PCR positive for EEE at the ADDL laboratory. Testing for West Nile Virus (WNV) was negative. This horse died on 8/26/2019. Subsequently, two other horses on this farm became sick the day this horse died, and one of those died on 8/29/2019.

The confirmation of EEE should serve as a reminder to horse owners on the need to vaccinate their horses. EEE attacks the nervous system of horses and the virus is transmitted by mosquitos. EEE can also be transmitted to humans, but often times goes unreported as infected persons report no apparent illness.

Horse owners should also take steps to remove standing water from near their homes, to reduce the breeding of mosquitos. Attached you will find a fact sheet pertaining to EEE that may be of some use to you.

Should you have any further questions pertaining to this matter, please contact Jodi Slayton, RN, BSN, at the Ashtabula County Health Department at (440)576-6010 or 576-3023 between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 pm weekdays.

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