

Town of Stratham Mosquito Control

Update August 2025

Over the last few weeks, a very large number of larvae were identified in local tidal waters. Late last week these larvae developed into adult mosquitoes. Salt marsh mosquitoes are very aggressive and bite during the day. The mosquito population hasn't been this bad in more than 10 years, according to Dragon Mosquito, of Brentwood, NH. This recent surge in mosquitoes is being experienced across the coastal Northeast. There are a few contributing factors:

- Wet spring – mosquitoes need stagnant water for part of their lifecycle
- Drought during many of the past 5 years – now mosquitoes are rebounding
- Dry/wet cycle on the salt marshes – perfect scenario for mosquito development

In effort to monitor the mosquito population in Stratham, the Town contracts professional services with Dragon Mosquito, which regularly monitors areas of Town for current population of mosquitoes and attempts to identify if those populations are carrying diseases that could impact the wellbeing of residents. To date, we have not had positive disease tests in Stratham.

As a policy, Dragon Mosquito is under contract to treat certain town properties with a pesticide to help control mosquito populations in these areas. This is done for community members to continue to enjoy these amenities; these locations are identified on the Town website. The Town does not conduct roadside spraying as there are many residents that have requested their properties not to be sprayed and due to the nature of this application, there is limited control in where the product will drift.

These efforts to control this recent surge will help with our current situation. The existing population of mosquitoes will also live out their natural lifecycle over the next few weeks. Dragon Mosquito Control will continue treating identified standing water and monitoring for disease until the season ends in late fall.

In the meantime, minimize your time outside when you can.

- Stay vigilant when you are outside
- Protect yourself by using an EPA approved mosquito repellent
- Wear long pants and long sleeves
- Avoid exposure at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active

Information on choosing a repellent and using repellents safely is available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents>.