



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

*Timothy M. Van Tasel
Superintendent*

*Laura Guerrette
Executive Secretary*

September 24, 2019

***** Important Notice – Eastern Equine Encephalitis *****

Good afternoon Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this communication is to inform our families regarding a notification we received this afternoon from the North Central District Health Department. The letter served as formal correspondence that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been detected in a mosquito bordering our local health district, which is of significant concern for our students who may be participating in outdoor school sanctioned activities – especially during the early morning and evening. With this being said, I would like to provide everyone with the steps we will be taking to mitigate the potential hazard to our students for the near future:

- Shifting all Suffield Public Schools high school home games from 4:00 pm to 3:45 pm and reducing half-times;
- Canceling McAlister Funky Food and Final Mile morning programs until further notice;
- Keeping Spaulding afterschool program students indoors beyond 5:30 pm; and
- Exploring the use of pesticides to treat for mosquitos.

Most importantly, we will continue to maintain open communication with families regarding any new updates we receive from the North Central District Health Department.

Although many of us are enjoying the mild September weather, I would welcome an October freeze warning to naturally address the mosquito concern. Until then, we will continue to monitor this growing concern. Please see the attached [EEE Fact Sheet](#) that was prepared for community awareness of the topic.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tasel, Superintendent