

FRED UPTON

6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

ENERGY
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH

DIGITAL COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

September 27, 2019

Dr. Robert Redfield
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Redfield:

I write to request a Congressional briefing on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) strategy to combat the spread of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), now confirmed to have caused seven deaths in seven states.

Given the record numbers of EEE cases in Michigan and other at-risk states, we would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the CDC's efforts to prevent the spread of this vector borne illness. I would also like to learn of any effort to develop treatments for those who have already contracted this disease.

Historically EEE cases are rare. However, southern Michigan has recently been hit particularly hard with seven confirmed cases, three of which resulted in death. Dr. Joneigh Khaldan, Chief Medical Executive at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services stated that "Michigan is experiencing its worst Eastern equine encephalitis outbreak in more than a decade." Concern about EEE has prompted some communities to take extra precautions, including altering start times for football games at local high schools to avoid risk of exposure.

As you know, EEE is a rare vector-borne viral infection that is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Only a few cases are reported in the United States each year. EEE infection can be severe and involve the central nervous system. Approximately one-third of all people with EEE die from the disease, and many survivors develop ongoing neurological problems. However, this year, we have seen an alarming spike of EEE cases.

I request that you share the most recent surveillance data and the details of the CDC's strategy to combat EEE infection as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

*Thanks
so much.*

DC OFFICE:

2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2206
(202) 225-3761
FAX: (202) 225-4986

MICHIGAN HOME OFFICES:

350 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 130
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007
(269) 385-0039
FAX: (269) 385-2888

720 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085
(269) 982-1986
FAX: (269) 982-0237

<http://upton.house.gov>