



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

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Good afternoon Parents and Guardians,

News about the EEE risk in central Massachusetts has been well advertised through local news channels in our area. We worry about your children's safety, because they are our children when they are with us. So, after checking with local schools, the Board of Health, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), we are putting a few changes in place.

First, students in the After-School Program will be allowed to play outside for a short while, but will be brought back in to the school at 4:00pm. Although the protocol for the town and many surrounding municipalities is banning all activities from dusk to dawn, we feel that this move is proactive and erring on the side of caution. Children will still be allowed to go outside at recess during good weather, since recess occurs between the hours of 11:15am-11:40am at the elementary campus, and ends even earlier at the middle school campus.

Secondly, we are asking parents who are concerned about the EEE risk to apply insect repellent to their child before school begins. Repellents containing <30% of DEET will be effective for anywhere between 1 ½ – 5 hours (depending on the percentage). Please refer to the MDPH Fact Sheet on Mosquito Repellents that I have attached to this communication for more information. This primary application of repellent at home should be enough to protect your child during morning recess.

Thirdly, if your child is staying after school in our extended day program, you may want to consider sending in repellent. Also attached to this communication is an OPTIONAL Parent Request for Insect Repellent Application form. If you feel more comfortable having an additional application applied before your child goes outside at extended day, then you must sign the form and send in the repellent in its original packaging, in a "Ziploc" bag clearly labeled with your child's name and grade. All applications will take place outside so as not to compromise anyone with a respiratory condition.

Lastly, I received a notification this afternoon from the Department of Agricultural Resources about aerial spraying. Please read this attachment as it includes information pertinent to our town and most of central Massachusetts.

Your children's safety is of paramount concern to us all. These protocols will remain in place until the first frost, or the risk level has been lowered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours in Christ,

Joan E. Matys, M.Ed.
Head of School