

Mark Aranson, M.D.
86 Rock Ridge Run
Cumberland, Me 04021

June 22, 2018

William Shane, Town Manager, Cumberland, Me
Cumberland Town Hall
Tuttle Rd
Cumberland, Me 04021

Re: Brown Tail Moth Infestation

Hi Bill,

I am contacting you concerning this season's horrible Brown Tail Moth (BTM) infestation. All members of my family living here in Cumberland, as well as many neighbors and friends in the surrounding towns are suffering severely with prolonged itching and some with respiratory problems from exposure to the caterpillar's effects. Local pharmacies which compound the medication for the treatment of the BTM itching, have been working overtime trying to fill the Rx's. Supposedly, spraying for the BTM in the past nearly eradicated the problem; however, follow-up spraying wasn't done, so this year, there has been an explosion of affected individuals with symptoms.

Because this is a public health nuisance adversely affecting the public health, I am requesting that you, as our local authority, petition the State of Maine CDC, pursuant to the Maine State Statute #1444, the COO of the Maine CDC, to declare an infestation of BTM as a public health nuisance. I will be cc'ing other town managers as well as the State Reps and Senators from the surrounding affected towns of Cumberland, Freeport, Falmouth, North Yarmouth, and Yarmouth, hoping that they will do the same. The following is needed: (1) completion of a BTM Public Health Nuisance request form on a Town letterhead, (2) a letter from the Maine Forestry Service documenting the infestation, and (3) a letter from a local health officer documenting that Town citizens are being affected. #2 and #3 must be included with #1. These documents need to be submitted to: Infectious Disease, Div. of Disease Control, Maine CDC, 11 State House Station, 286 Water St., Augusta, Me. 04333-0011, or fax to #207-287-6865, or E-mail to disease.reporting@maine.gov

Thank you for your assistance with this scourge. We need to get rid of this invasive insect once and for all.

Mark Aranson