

West Nile Virus (WNV)



West Nile Virus (WNV) is carried by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected from feeding on infected birds. WNV can cause mild to serious illness in humans. It is usually spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Who gets sick?

People of all ages can become ill from WNV.

People age 50 and over are at highest risk for serious illness.

What are the symptoms?

Most people infected with WNV develop no symptoms of illness.

Some infected people will have mild symptoms that can last for several days (headache, aches, tiredness, possible rash).

A few people will develop serious illness that requires hospitalization or can cause death.

WNV SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of severe illness include:

- Severe headache
- High fever
- Stiff neck
- Mental confusion
- Muscle weakness
- Tremors (shaking)
- Coma
- Paralysis

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU DEVELOP ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS

Please turn over for more information.

June 2008 – Adapted from CDC & MDPH Fact Sheets

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Protect yourself and your family.

- #1: Avoid bites.
- #2: Mosquito-proof your home.
- #3: Report dead birds.



Avoid bites.

Limit outdoor time from dusk to dawn when many mosquitoes bite.

Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks. Spray uncovered skin and clothing with insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus when you go outdoors. Use repellents carefully and follow directions.

Mosquito-proof your home.

A mosquito lays her eggs in standing water.

Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, and other items. Change water in pet bowls and birdbaths every few days. Clear clogged rain gutters.

Check and repair screens on windows and doors.

Report dead birds.

Birds die from many causes. A dead bird may be a sign of WNV in your area.

Report dead blue jays and crows by calling 1-866-MASS-VNW.



Questions?

XXXXXXXX Board of Health
XXX-XXX-XXXX



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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