

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis or meningitis in humans and other animals. People get West Nile Virus from the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus. Mosquitoes become infected with West Nile virus when they feed on infected birds that carry the virus in their blood.

Nationally, cases of West Nile virus decreased in 2009, with 720 human cases and 32 deaths. Michigan accounted for one human case, with no deaths. Washtenaw County had no human cases. Most people infected with West Nile virus do not have any symptoms of illness, but one in five will become ill 2-15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Mild illness from West Nile can include these symptoms: slight fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes a skin rash and swollen glands. Serious illness from West Nile can include these symptoms: High fever, severe headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. In a few cases, mostly among persons 75 years and older, death may occur.

Updated

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Source

Washtenaw County Public Health Department

More Information

<http://westnile.ewashtenaw.org>

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus

www.cdc.gov/westnile

Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness – West Nile Virus

The presence of dead birds, especially crows, blue jays, and ravens, is a sensitive indicator for the presence of West Nile virus. The Washtenaw County Public Health Department asks citizens to report all dead birds to the Washtenaw County West Nile Virus Hotline at (734) 544-6750.

Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active (dawn and dusk).

Wear light colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants, if possible.

Apply insect repellent that contains the active ingredient DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus/PMD, or IR3535 to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use. DEET repellent can be used on children 2 months of age and older.

Avoid applying insect repellent to the hands of young children, who may then transfer the repellent to their eyes and mouth, which has the potential of producing irritation or adverse health effects.

Take care when opening doors so that mosquitoes don't "hitch a ride" into the house on you, your children, or your pets.

Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes out of homes and other buildings.

Empty standing water from buckets, flowerpots, saucers, pools, patio furniture covers, and other similar sites where mosquitoes can lay eggs.

Remove wet, organic material from your gutters and from low-lying areas in your yard.

Keep tall weeds trimmed back from areas where you or your children spend time outdoors.

Response / Recovery – West Nile Virus

Seek immediate medical attention if you suspect you have been infected.