



West Nile Virus (WNV) is a virus that is commonly spread through the bite of infected mosquitos. Mosquitos become infected when they bite an infected bird. The best way to prevent WNV is through mosquito control, preventing mosquito breeding will prevent mosquito bites.

Individuals who are infected with WNV will fall into one of three categories:

- No symptoms – 70-80% of people who are infected with WNV will not have any symptoms
- Febrile illness – 20% of people who are infected will develop a fever along with headache, joint pain, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting or rash.
- Severe illness - Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop serious neurological symptoms such as meningitis or encephalitis. Other symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, coma, seizures, paralysis or disorientation.
 - Individuals over the age of 60 have the greatest risk for developing severe illness.
 - People with underlying health conditions are also at a greater risk for developing severe illness.
 - Recovery may take several weeks to months; some may have long-term neurological complications.
 - Roughly 10% of the individuals who develop neurologic infection as a result of WNV will die.

Protect yourself

- Avoid mosquito bites
 - Wear long sleeves and long pants
 - Use insect repellent approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Protect your home

- Remove standing water from your property
- Repair any broken screens, windows and doors to keep mosquitos outside
- Keep vegetation trimmed
- Report dead birds to local authorities (dead birds may indicate WNV is circulating)

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