

West Nile Virus Symptoms

West Nile Fever:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Body & joint aches
- Rash

West Nile Virus Meningitis / Encephalitis:

- Fever
- Stiff neck
- Headache
- Altered mental status

Persons with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.

According to a report filed by the State of Michigan, most humans who are bitten by an infected mosquito will experience no illness related symptoms:

- * 80% of people who are exposed to West Nile Virus through a mosquito bite have no symptoms of illness and develop immunity to future infection.
- * Less than 1% of people who get bitten by an infected mosquito will become severely ill.
- * Evidence indicates that people over 50 are at a higher risk to get seriously ill if they are bitten by an infected mosquito.

Additional Resources

Wayne County Environmental
Health Department Hot line
734-727-7445 www.waynecounty.com

[State of Michigan](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases)
www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases
888-668-0869

[United States Center for Disease Control](http://www.cdc.gov)
www.cdc.gov

[Charter Township of Plymouth](http://www.plymouthtp.org)
734-354-3270 extension 4
www.plymouthtp.org

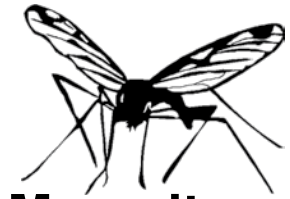


Postal Carriers:
Please deliver to Plymouth Township Residences ONLY.

Attention Postal Customer
Plymouth, MI 48170

Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 N Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-4673

WEST NILE VIRUS



Mosquitoes,



Your Yard,



and Your Health



Mosquito Facts

All mosquitoes require two items in order to lay eggs:

1. A blood meal from a host to allow the eggs to develop (that means you and your family may be the host.)
2. Water in which to lay their eggs.

A mosquito can grow from an egg to an adult in less than 10 days when the weather is favorable.

Mosquitoes found in urban and suburban areas will lay their eggs in virtually any receptacle that contains water and decomposing organic material such as leaves, grass clippings, or even algae.

Mosquitoes do not breed in tall grass as many people believe. However, tall grass and other shady, protected areas such as shrubs and ornamental trees

with low-lying branches provide mosquitoes with much needed shelter and resting areas.



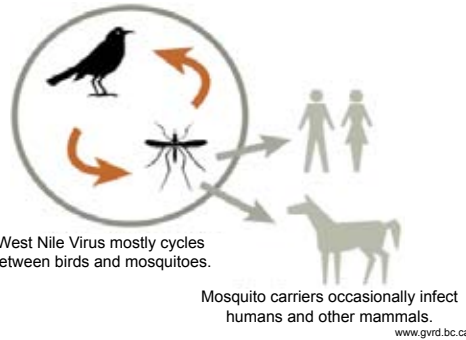
Mosquitoes are expert fliers and many species can travel great distances from their breeding sites. However, the species that breed around the home are often called "domestic" and are rarely found far from human habitation. All of the "domestic" forms of mosquitoes will accept humans as a blood meal host and many will enter houses to feed.

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus is a growing concern in the United States. The virus, transmitted to humans via mosquitoes, made its first appearance in the United States in 1999 and in Michigan in 2002.

Of the 60 species of mosquitoes known to inhabit Michigan one species, Culex Pipiens, is most commonly found to carry the virus.

West Nile Virus exists primarily as an infection in bird populations and is transmitted from bird to bird by mosquitoes. Humans and equine populations that contract West Nile Virus are considered "incidental" infections.



There is no connection between Bird Flu and West Nile Virus.

What If I Find a Dead Bird?

Do not handle dead birds with your bare hands. Use gloves or turn a plastic bag inside out, scoop up the bird with the bag, double bag the dead bird & place in your normal trash. Report dead birds to the Division of Public Services at 734-354-3270 extension 452.

Wayne County will accept dead crows, ravens, or blue jays for testing. Contact Wayne County at 734-727-7445 for more information.

Keep You and Your Family Safe

August & September have proven to be peak months for cases of West Nile Virus to appear. Please consider the following precautions:

Provide 16 to 18 mesh screening on doors, windows, and all outside openings.

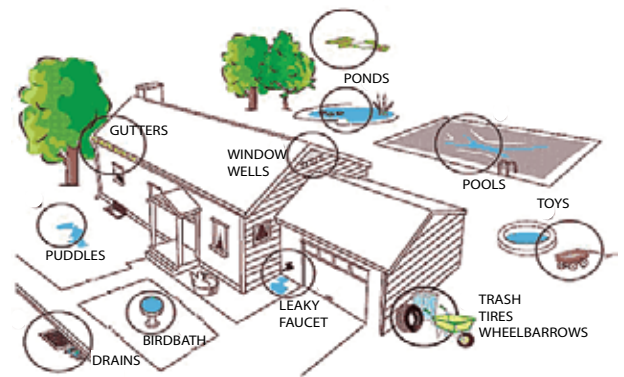
Reduce your outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity time, which is from dusk to dawn.



If you are outside during peak mosquito activity time, **wear long sleeve shirts, pants and socks.** Spray clothing and exposed skin with an insect repellent that contains DEET (N,N-diethyl-methylmeta-tolumide). Remember that repellent should be used only according to the manufacturer's directions.

Remove any standing, stagnant water which is the breeding ground for mosquitoes from around your home. Turn over buckets, toys, etc. that can fill with water.

Clean your birdbaths & gutters frequently.



Mosquitoes can be significantly reduced by eliminating as many sources of standing water as possible.

www.ontariocountypublichealth.com