



Madison Health Department
West Nile Virus
Web Announcement
May 7, 2014

With warm weather approaching, local mosquito commissions and health departments are working hard to monitor and control the spread of West Nile Virus in the mosquito population.

When is the Peak Season for WNV?

In the past, peak West Nile Virus activity in New Jersey usually occurred in August/September.

How is WNV transmitted to people?

West Nile Virus is transmitted primarily by the bite of an infective mosquito. Residents are advised to take precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito bites.

What Can Be Done to Prevent WNV?

- When outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient: The gold standard for mosquito repellent is DEET, which may be used on adults and children greater than two months of age. Other repellents recommended by the CDC include picaridin, IR3535 and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-methanediol products. Oil of lemon eucalyptus products should not be used on children under three. Always follow label instructions for repellents.
- Limit time outdoors at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active, or wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants during those times.
- Keep mosquito netting over infant seats and strollers.
- Eliminate any standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs. Mosquitoes that breed around the home are primarily responsible for transmitting West Nile Virus to humans! Morris County residents may report mosquito problems and standing water to the Morris County Mosquito Commission at (973) 285-6450.
- Install or repair window and door screens.
- Support community-based mosquito control programs.

What are the Symptoms of WNV?

West Nile virus infection *generally causes no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms*. About one in 150 people infected with WNV, or less than one percent, will develop a more severe form of the disease. Symptoms of the more severe disease can include severe headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and death. The elderly are at higher risk of more severe disease.

How Prevalent was WNV in Morris County last year (2013 data)?

- Five human cases of WNV were identified in the following four counties: Bergen (1), Burlington (1), Camden (2) and Morris (1)

- 19 birds tested positive for WNV from 8 counties, none from Morris
- 390 mosquito pools tested positive for WNV from 19 counties, including: Morris with 22

What are other sources of information on WNV?

- The NJ State Department of Health and Senior Services website at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/westnile/enceph.htm>
- CDC web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>
- The Morris County Mosquito Commission website at www.morrismosquito.org
The Morris County Mosquito Commission website also provides up-to-date information on where and when mosquito spraying will be occurring.