



West Nile Virus (WNV)

Description

- West Nile Virus, a mosquito borne organism, causes an infection that results in swelling of the brain (encephalitis). In a small percentage of people, the disease can be fatal.

What to expect

- Most people show no symptoms or have mild symptoms of the disease. It takes from 2 to 14 days for the disease to develop. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, muscle weakness, body aches, often with skin rash and swollen lymph glands. People with more severe cases of the disease may have severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, confusion, coma, tremors, paralysis.

What can I do to protect my family?

- Discard old tires, buckets, drums, bottles or other water-holding containers.
- Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings to allow rain water to drain out.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside.
- Clean roof gutters often to prevent clogging.
- Clean out and empty bird baths weekly. Change the water at least weekly.
- Clean food and water bowls left outside for pets daily.
- Turn over tools and toys, such as wheelbarrows and plastic wading pools, which can hold stagnant water when not in use.
- Make certain potted plants that are kept out of doors are draining properly and do not hold standing water.
- Keep backyard swimming pools clean and chlorinated. Arrange with a neighbor or friend to maintain your pool if you are away from home for an extended period of time.
- Fill in any low lying areas in your yard where standing water collects.
- Aerate ornamental pools to prevent stagnation.
- Populate ornamental pools with surface feeding minnows (goldfish offer hardly any benefit).
- Mow your lawn regularly.
- Cut weeds growing next to building foundations and fence lines.

Is it contagious?

- No, West Nile Virus is not transmitted from person-to-person

Who should be notified if my child gets a mosquito bite and has symptoms?

- Report any symptoms of illness to your doctor

When can the child return to day care or school?

- Following recommendation of your doctor.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-3603.