

Help prevent West Nile Virus

The Illinois Department of Public Health has asked physicians to report all suspect cases of West Nile disease and submit specimens so that testing for West Nile Virus can be done. You can help prevent West Nile Virus.

Don't let standing water collect on your property

Check for turned up garbage can lids, grill covers and children's toys.

Empty, clean and refill birdbaths and wading pools frequently.

Additional information

Additional information on West Nile Virus is available at the following web-sites:

Kane County Health Department
www.kanehealth.com/west_nile.htm

Illinois Department of Health
www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm



Culex Mosquito



Village of Sugar Grove

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Village of Sugar Grove

West Nile Virus



Contributing to the health, safety, comfort and quality of life of the community.

Public Works Department

West Nile Virus (WNV)

West Nile virus emerged in the United States in the New York metropolitan area in the fall of 1999. Since then, the virus, which can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito, has quickly spread across the country.

In Illinois, West Nile virus was first identified in September 2001 when laboratory tests confirmed its presence in two dead crows found in the Chicago area. The following year, the state's first human cases and deaths from West Nile disease were recorded. By the end of 2002, Illinois had counted more human cases (884) and deaths (67) than any other state in the United States.

West Nile encephalitis symptoms

Most people who are infected have no symptoms or may experience mild illness, such as a fever and headache, before fully recovering. In some individuals, particularly the elderly, WNV can cause serious disease that affects the brain. It can cause permanent neurological damage and be fatal. Symptoms generally occur three to 15 days following the bite of an infected mosquito and range from a slight fever, headache, rash, swollen nodes and conjunctivitis (irritation of the eye) to the rapid onset of a severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, coma or death. Less than 1 percent of persons infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness.

What you can do:

The best way to prevent West Nile encephalitis or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Here are some suggestions:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening. If outdoors at these times, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- When it is necessary to be outdoors, apply insect repellent as indicated on the repellent label. The more DEET a product contains, the longer the repellent can protect against mosquito bites. However, concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase the length of protection. For most situations, 10 percent to 25 percent DEET is adequate. Apply repellents to clothes whenever possible; apply sparingly to exposed skin if label permits. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Report any dead or diseased Crows and Blue Jays to your local municipality.

What the Village is Doing:

The Village employs a proactive approach by treating all catch-basins and open bodies of water with a larvicide that breaks the life cycle of the Culex Mosquito, the mosquito identified to carry West Nile Virus (WNV). A briquette of larvicide is dropped in all catch-basins and there it slowly dissolves, neutralizing any larvae from the mosquito. The briquettes are designed to be effective for 150 days, making the need to retreat unlikely. This program is completed by Village personnel authorized by the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) to dispense the larvicide. Public Works Staff then monitors and inspects designated areas for the signs of larvae throughout the summer. Any evidence of mosquitoes is reported to the KCHD. Staff also monitors the Village for dead or diseased Crows and Blue Jays, another sign that WNV carrying mosquitoes could be in the area.

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