

Mosquito Abatement

Problems with mosquitos?
Have a green, untreated pool?

Please call:

Bakersfield Area **589-2744**

Westside **763-3510**

Delano **725-3114**

South Fork **1-760-376-4268**

If you find a
dead bird or squirrel

call toll free

California Department of
Public Health:

(877) WNV-BIRD

(877) 968-2473

or make a report via internet at
www.westnile.ca.gov

How do I find out more about West Nile virus?

If you feel ill, contact your doctor or
other health care provider.

The following sources can help you
learn more about WNV.

Fight the Bite:
California West Nile Virus Website
www.westnile.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health:
www.cdph.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/westnile

Kern County Department of Public Health:
www.co.kern.ca.us/health



**Healthy People In
Healthy Communities**

1800 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

(877) 81VIRUS
(877) 818-4787



What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a virus spread by mosquitoes. This virus is a cause for concern, but it is not a cause for panic. In rare cases the virus can cause an infection affecting the nervous system.

The West Nile virus has been found in most places around the world since the 1930s. It first appeared in the United States in 1999. Since then, the virus has spread to 48 states, and to Canada and Mexico. West Nile virus first appeared in California in 2002 with the identification of one human case. By 2004, WNV activity was identified in all 58 counties.

Can West Nile virus make me sick?

Most people infected with West Nile virus may have no symptoms and will not become sick. However, about 20% will become ill 3 to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Symptoms can include:

- ◆ Fever
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Body aches
- ◆ Mild skin rash

These symptoms can occur in other infections as well. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical attention.

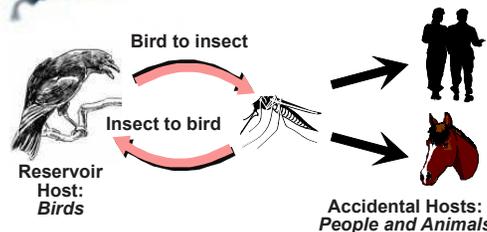
Treatment consists of medical support and nursing care for the symptoms while the person's immune system responds to the infection. Less than 1% of West Nile virus cases lead to the more critical form of the disease. In the U.S., it tends to be more severe in people over the age of 50 and those with weak immune systems.

How do people get West Nile virus?

People and animals get West Nile virus from the bite of an infected mosquito. Horses, many types of birds, including crows and blue jays, and tree squirrels can also be infected with WNV.

The virus CANNOT be transmitted person-to-person. There is no evidence that people can get the virus directly from birds, horses, or squirrels.

In most locations mosquitoes die off in the winter and the chance of getting the virus decreases. The late summer and early fall months are the most likely time for infection to occur.



What do I do if I find a dead bird or squirrel?

Dead birds and squirrels should not be handled. Use gloves, a shovel, or a plastic bag to place the dead bird or squirrel in a trash bag for disposal. Please DO NOT freeze dead birds.

Immediately call the California Department of Public Health West Nile and Dead Bird Hotline at: **(877) WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473)**. They will arrange for pickup and disposal through local authorities.

If you have not been contacted within 24 hours of your report, you may safely dispose of the dead bird or squirrel in your trash.

Horses can be vaccinated against the virus. Talk to your veterinarian about this option.

What can I do to prevent getting the infection?

Your best defense is to avoid mosquito bites by taking the following steps:

- 🦟 Try to avoid outside activity at **DAWN** and **DUSK** hours (when infected mosquitoes are most active) from May to October. This is especially important for the elderly and small children.
- 🦟 When outdoors, use an insect repellent that contains **DEET*** (check the label). Always follow directions carefully when using repellents, especially on young children.
- 🦟 **DRAIN** all standing water on your property and stock permanent ponds with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae.

Other helpful steps to reduce the risk for mosquito-borne diseases in your neighborhood:

- 🦟 Contact your mosquito abatement district if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.
- 🦟 When outdoors, wear loose-fitting long sleeves and long pants whenever possible.
- 🦟 Make sure doors and windows have tight fitting screens with no holes or tears.
- 🦟 Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean your gutters in the spring and the fall.

Don't give mosquitoes a place to breed. A small amount of standing water can be enough for a mosquito to lay thousands of eggs.

***For more information on DEET visit www.epa.gov/pesticide**