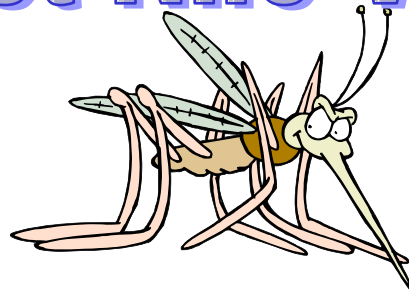


# The Hamilton Township Department of Health West Nile Virus



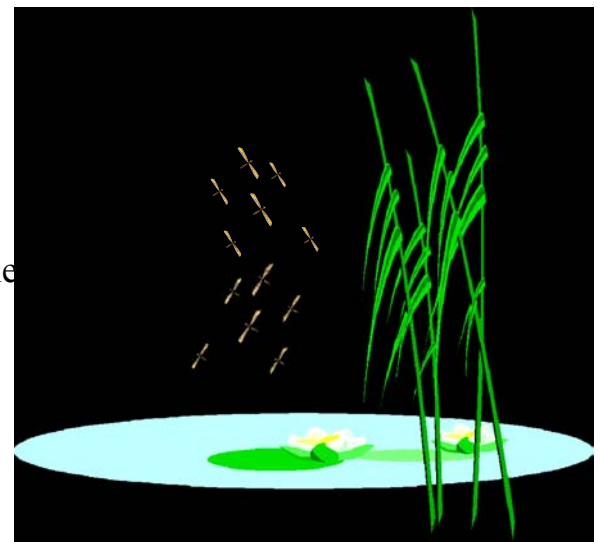
West Nile Virus is a viral infection transmitted by the bite of an infectious mosquito, primarily the northern house mosquito, culex pipiens. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on birds that have the virus in their bloodstream. After the incubation period, infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to humans, birds, horses, or other mammals through a bite. The virus is not transmitted from person to person or, it is believed, by handling live or dead infected birds. However, as a precaution, avoid skin contact with dead animals or birds by using gloves and/or plastic bags. Certain types of birds, including crows, appear to be highly sensitive to the virus and transmit it to mosquitoes.

Most people bitten by infected mosquitoes may not develop any symptoms or very mild symptoms such as fever, headaches, body aches, skin rashes, and swollen lymph nodes. More severe infections may have symptoms such as headaches, high fever, stiff neck, muscle weakness, disorientation, coma, tremors, and, in rare cases, death. If a person has any symptoms, they usually occur 5-15 days after being bitten and should seek medical attention. It is rare that a human is infected. Even in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, only 1% of the mosquitoes are infected.

The Hamilton Township Division of Health is advising the following recommendations to its residents to reduce the risk of the West Nile Virus:

## TIPS FOR THE HOME

- Eliminate all stagnant water
- Change water in birdbaths every few days
- Dispose of all unneeded water-holding containers
- Clean clogged roof gutters
- Drain water from pool covers
- Make sure screens are in good condition
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock with fish
- Turn over wading pools not in use



## PERSONAL PROTECTION



Limit outdoor activities at dawn, dusk, and early evening, when possible

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors

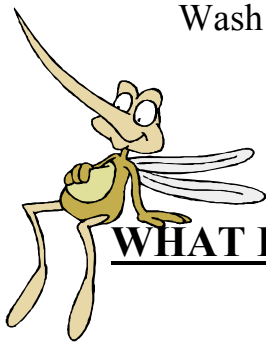
Apply insect repellent to exposed skin

**(REPELLENT SHOULD NEVER BE PLACED ON CHILDREN WITHOUT CONSULTING A PHYSICIAN AND NONE ON A CHILD YOUNGER THAN 3 YEARS)**

Do not use products which contain over 35% DEET, particularly on children

Spray clothing with repellents

Wash all treated skin and clothing when returning indoors



## WHAT IS THE TOWNSHIP HEALTH DIVISION DOING TO REDUCE WEST NILE VIRUS?



The Hamilton Township Health Division is working in conjunction with the Mercer County Mosquito Commission and with the State Department of Health to safeguard our community. Our Division of Health participates as a member of the advisory board of the Mercer County Mosquito Commission. If you notice any breeding grounds for mosquitoes, such as stagnant water, or if there is an area which contains water that you feel should be sprayed by the County, please contact the Health Division at (609) 890-3828 to report them, and our inspectors will investigate that complaint. Our inspectors survey the entire township on a daily basis to abate any nuisances before they become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Also, our Animal Control Officer will pick up any freshly killed crows, hawks, and falcons to be tested for the virus. You may call Animal Control at (609) 890-3550. The Health Education section offers programs to groups and/or literature on the West Nile Virus and that number is (609) 890-3647. If you have any further questions or would like further information on the West Nile Virus, please call the Division of Health at (609) 890-3821.

## CHECK ONLINE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



[www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)  
[www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito)  
[www.state.nj.us/agriculture](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture)  
[www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/njmos.htm](http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/njmos.htm)  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbib/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbib/westnile)  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides)

