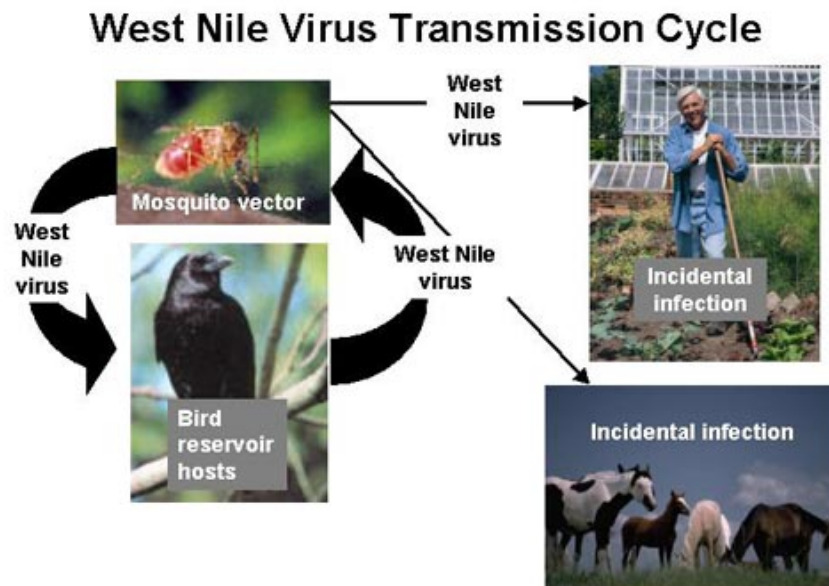




WEST NILE VIRUS

West Nile virus is an infection transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito is primarily the northern house mosquito, culex pipiens. The mosquitoes become infected after feeding on birds that have the virus in their bloodstream. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit the virus to humans, birds, horses or other mammals through a bite. The virus is not transmitted from person to person.



It is also not transmitted handling live or dead infected birds. However, it is still advised not to have skin contact with dead animals or birds without using gloves and/or plastic bags. Certain types of birds, including crows, appear to carry the virus more and can then transmit it to the mosquitoes.

Symptoms

Most people bitten by infected mosquitoes may not develop any symptoms or very mild symptoms such as fever, headache, 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 recommending 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 THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF HEALTH IS DOING TO REDUCE WEST NILE VIRUS

- ✚ Working in conjunction with the *Mercer County Mosquito Commission* and the *State Department of Health* to safeguard our community.
- ✚ Participates as a member on the *Advisory Board* of the *Mercer County Mosquito Commission*.

Contact the Hamilton Township Division of Health (609) 890- 3828

- ✚ If you notice any breeding grounds for mosquitoes, such as stagnant water
- ✚ If there is an area which contains water that you feel should be sprayed by the County
- ✚ Hamilton Township 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.

Testing of specimens - Animal Control (609) 890-3550

- ✚ A Hamilton Township Animal Control Officer will pick up any freshly killed crows, hawks and falcons to be tested for the virus.

HEALTH EDUCATION
(609) 890-3647

- ✚ The Hamilton Township Health Education section offers: Programs to groups and/or literature on West Nile Virus
- ✚ If you have any further questions or would like further information on West Nile Virus, please call the Division of Health at (609) 890-3821.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

www.state.nj.us/health

www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito

www.state.nj.us/agriculture

www-rci.rutgers.edu/-insects/njmos.htm

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

West Nile Virus Fact Sheet

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/resources/WNV_factsheet.pdf

What You Should Know About Mosquito Repellent

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/resources/mosquitorepellent.p>

[df](#)

www.epa.gov/pesticides