

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT West Nile Virus

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a blood-borne infection that can be transmitted by mosquitoes to humans, horses and birds. A female mosquito feeds on an infected bird, then bites people, horses or other birds and spreads the virus. The virus is NOT spread person-to-person or from direct contact with birds or animals.

Most people infected by WNV will have no symptoms or mild ones including fever; headache, body ache, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Rarely, more serious symptoms can appear such as: brain inflammation, high fever, neck stiffness, confusion, coma, seizures and possibly death. People most at risk for WNV are the elderly, young children, and those with compromised immune systems or chronic medical conditions.

There is no human vaccine, although several companies are working towards one.

Hunters and Bird Handlers

Like other animals, birds can carry many different infections. It is a good idea to wash your hands after handling dead birds, or not touch them at all.

Horse Owners

Eliminate mosquito breeding areas.

- Thoroughly clean livestock water troughs monthly.

- Fly sprays are only effective for a short time period, so don't rely on them for mosquito control. Use a product that contains permethrin.

- Keep horses in stalls at night to reduce the risk.

- Use fans in the barn to keep air moving.

- There is a vaccine for horses that may help.



Drawing of Culex mosquito laying eggs

What you can do...

- A**void Mosquito Bites
- B**e Informed
- C**lear Mosquitoes from Your Property

Mosquito season begins in March or April, and ends with freezing temperatures.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and the early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET to skin and clothing. Adults should use repellent with 30 percent DEET, and children older than age two should use repellent with 10 percent DEET. Do not apply DEET to children under the age of two.

Be Informed

- Read this flyer and share it with your family and friends.
- Visit the many informative websites on West Nile Virus listed below.

Clear Mosquitoes from Your Property

Mosquitoes may lay eggs in any standing water that lasts for more than four days. They like shade and can hide in tall grass.

- Eliminate standing water sources and containers such as unused tires, tin cans, plastic containers or ceramic pots that can collect water.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors.
- Change water for pets, livestock and birds at least once a week.
- Keep swimming pools, saunas and hot tubs clean and chlorinated.
- Stock ornamental pools with minnows or goldfish (they eat mosquito larvae on the water surface) or treat the pools with bacteria registered as pesticides (Bti).
- Keep hedges, bushes and lawns trimmed.
- Clean roof gutters.
- Make sure windows, doors and porches are tightly screened and free of holes.

West Nile Virus is less deadly than influenza.

Flu: 36,000 (average annual US flu deaths)

West Nile: 252 (total US deaths through year 2002)

Be safe when using products.

WARNING—
Chemicals and pesticides can carry health risks to citizens, animals and vegetation. Chemical control of mosquitoes should only be carried out by trained personnel or at their instruction. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages nonchemical mosquito control measures.



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For more information on what Lane County is doing, go online at:
http://www.lanecounty.org/cao_pio/public_health_links.htm

Or call: Lane County Public Health at 541.682.4041

Find out more...

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/index.htm>

Oregon Health Department: <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/acd/w Nile/facts.cfm>

National Pesticide Information Center: 1-800-858-7378 or by e-mail at npic@ace.orst.edu

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/skeeters.htm>

Mosquito Buzz: <http://www.mosquitobuzz.com>

Above photos:
To keep mosquitos from breeding, eliminate standing water such as these.