

Personal Protection:

- ✓ Try to avoid mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks.
- ✓ Stay indoors during peak mosquito biting times: dusk, dawn, & early evening.
- ✓ Apply insect repellent containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) when outdoors; following the directions carefully. The more DEET a repellent contains, the longer time it gives protection.
- ✓ Use care in applying repellent to children! Products containing 10% or less DEET are the most appropriate for children aged 2-12 years. Don't put repellent on their hands or spray it on their face. Put the repellent on your hands and then rub on their face, avoiding their mouths and eyes. Always check with your health care provider!
- ✓ Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin, mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing
- ✓ Fix or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out!

Resources:

Benton Franklin Health District

Environmental Health 460 4205
Public Health Emergency
Preparedness & Response 460 4200

Benton County Mosquito Control

James Henriksen,
Kevin Shoemaker 967-2414

Franklin County Mosquito Control

Brian Benner 545-4083

WSU Extension Office

Jean Smith, M.S. 735-3551

Regional WSDA Veterinarians

Benton County
Peter Tran 509-786-2717
Franklin County
Lee Williams 509-765-3922

Washington State Dept. of Health

1-866-78VIRUS (1-866-788-4787)
24 hours a day

Benton Franklin Health District

www.bfhd.wa.gov

Washington State Dept. of Health

www.doh.wa.gov/WNV

Washington Dept. of Agriculture

www.wa.gov/agr/default.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

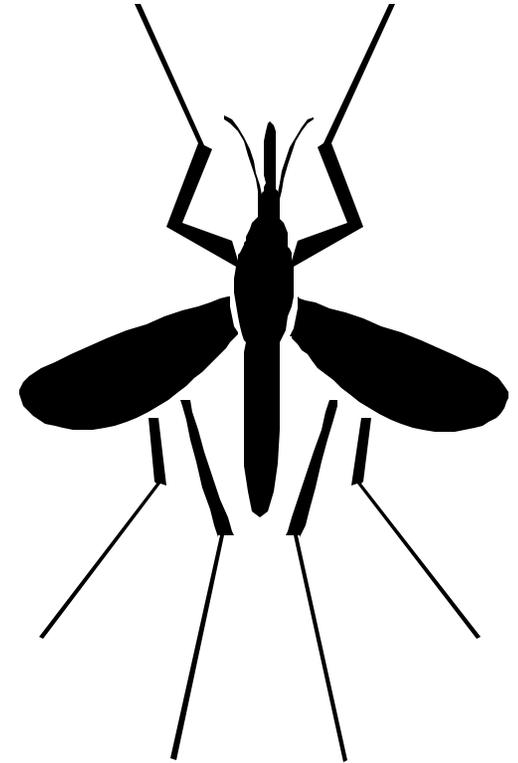
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

Animal & Plant Health

Inspection Service

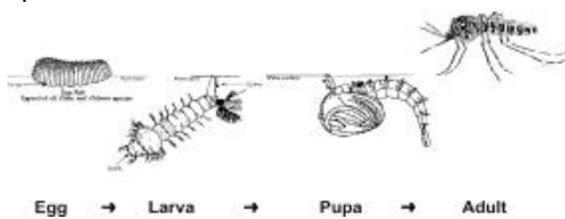
www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/wnv/wnv.html

Mosquito Habitat Reduction, Personal Protection, West Nile Virus, and You



Mosquitoes:

Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. The larval and pupal stages live entirely in water. When the pupae change into adults, they leave the water and become flying insects. The development of a mosquito from egg to adult can vary from one to several weeks depending upon the species and environmental conditions.



Only female mosquitoes bite. They need blood meal for egg production. When they bite, they prefer horses, cattle, birds or other small animals rather than humans.

Mosquito season generally runs from March through October, peaking in August and September.

West Nile Virus:

West Nile virus was first recognized in the U.S. in 1999. The virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. They become infected from infected birds.

Currently, there is no vaccine for humans.

There are at least 6 known species of mosquitoes in our region that can transmit West Nile virus. Most people who become infected show NO symptoms. A small number will have symptoms 3-15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. *See your health care provider.*

Habitat Reduction:

Mosquitoes need water to reproduce. Anything that holds water for one week can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. *Get rid of places where water collects and/or empty water from these places:*

- ✓ Empty standing water from potted plant saucers, tarps, pet bowls, swimming pool covers, buckets, toys, wading pools, wagons, and wheelbarrows.
- ✓ Change water in your birdbaths, fountains, wading pools and animal troughs weekly.
- ✓ Recycle unused containers: cans, bottles, and plastic containers.
- ✓ Haul unwanted items to the waste facility: old tires, containers, buckets, broken outdoor play equipment, etc.
- ✓ Make sure roof gutters drain properly and clean clogged gutters.
- ✓ Fix leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers.
- ✓ Inspect basements and crawl spaces. If they are flooded or have standing water, remove water as soon as possible.
- ✓ Fill in tree holes with sand or mortar.
- ✓ Do not over-water your lawn or garden.
- ✓ Stock self-contained ponds with insect-eating fish. (Call Benton County Mosquito Control for information.)

Dead Bird Surveillance:

Benton Franklin Heath District is participating in the surveillance of dead birds for West Nile virus. Birds that commonly become sick and die of the virus are in the family Corvidae (e.g. crows, magpies and jays). The raptors also seem susceptible.

If a bird is found dead, please call the health district at 582-7761 X246. To test for WNV, we need appropriate birds. The following are some guidelines: death by natural causes, carcass freshly dead (<24 hours), the bird is intact; and others.

Be safe! Use rubber gloves or put your hand inside a plastic bag before picking up a dead bird; place the bird in a plastic bag, tie shut, and then place in a second bag and close; discard the dead bird in the garbage unless otherwise instructed by the health district.

Vaccination of Horses:

The USDA has approved two West Nile virus vaccines for equine. They are given intramuscularly and require two doses, ideally 3 to 4 weeks apart. Immunity may not be achieved for up to 6 weeks after the 2nd dose. An annual booster should also be given.

Please call your veterinarian's office for more information.

See back for additional resources.