

# West Nile Virus.....Prevention and Control in Appleton

## *What are West Nile Virus, West Nile fever, and West Nile encephalitis?*

West Nile Virus is a virus commonly found in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. It is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis virus found in the United States. The virus can infect humans, birds, mosquitoes, horses and some other mammals.

West Nile fever is a case of mild disease in people, characterized by flu-like symptoms. West Nile fever typically lasts only a few days and does not appear to cause any long-term health effects.

More severe diseases caused by this virus are "West Nile encephalitis," West Nile meningitis or West Nile meningoencephalitis." Encephalitis refers to an inflammation of the brain, meningitis is an inflammation of the membrane around the brain and the spinal cord, and meningoencephalitis refers to inflammation of the brain and the membrane surrounding it.

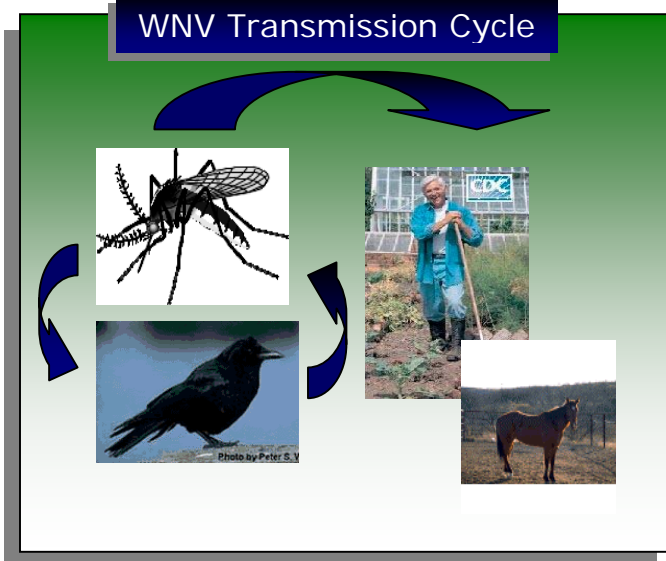
WNV was first detected in the United States in 1999 in the New York City area. Since then the virus has spread rapidly westward across the United States. The virus was detected in birds in the City of Appleton in summer and fall of 2002.

### Symptoms

**Mild Infection:** fever, headache, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands

**Severe infection:** headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. It is estimated that 1 in 150 persons infected with the West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of disease.

### WNV Transmission Cycle



### *How can you get WNV?*

WNV is transmitted primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for a few days. The virus eventually finds its way into the mosquito's salivary glands. During subsequent blood meals, the virus may be injected by the mosquito into humans and animals, where it can multiply and possibly cause illness.

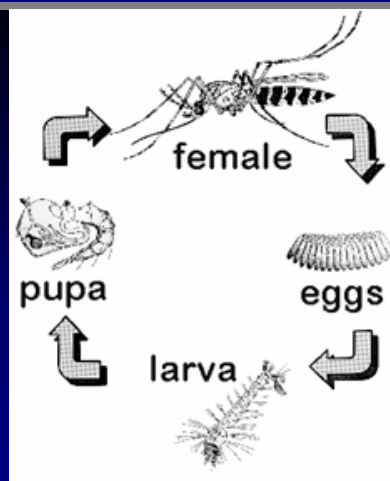
### *How can you prevent a WNV infection?*

**The best approach to preventing a WNV infection is through the elimination of mosquitoes and the prevention of mosquito bites.**

Since mosquito eggs, larvae, and pupa need standing water to complete their life cycle, we can control mosquito populations by getting rid of standing water. See the checklist on the other side to help identify where you might find standing water on your property.

Prevent mosquito bites by wearing clothing that mosquitoes cannot bite through, and/or use an effective insect repellent.

### The Mosquito Life Cycle



# MUSKOL<sup>®</sup>

INSECT REPELLENT



There are many products on the market designed to prevent mosquito bites. The most effective are insect repellants that contain DEET. The more DEET a repellent contains the longer time it can protect you from mosquito bites. A higher percentage of DEET in a repellent does not mean that your protection is better—just that it will last longer. DEET concentrations higher than 50% do not increase the length of protection. Choose a repellent that provides protection for the amount of time that you will be outdoors.

**Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product.**



## No Standing Water...No Mosquitoes!

*Water that stands for more than three days can breed mosquitoes*

- ✓ Old Tires
- ✓ Bird Baths
- ✓ Wading Pools, Swimming Pools
- ✓ Puddles and Swampy Areas
- ✓ Flower Pots and Vases
- ✓ Leaky Faucets, Hoses
- ✓ Pets and Livestock Watering Pans
- ✓ Containers, Barrels, Garbage Cans
- ✓ Tarps or Plastic Sheets
- ✓ Tree Holes, Stumps, and Brush Piles
- ✓ Wheelbarrows
- ✓ Canoes and Boats
- ✓ Roof Gutters
- ✓ Construction Sites and Landscaping

**If Appleton Residents have concerns about mosquito breeding habitats in their neighborhood or if they have other questions about West Nile Virus, they are encouraged to contact the Appleton Health Department at 832-6429.**



Health Department  
100 N Appleton St  
Appleton WI 54952



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