What if I find a dead bird?

Monitoring dead bird locations is a priority of CCDPH. The presence of dead birds in a community is a sign of possible WNV in the area.

See our website for a list of birds eligible for testing: www.cookcountypublichealth.org. If you find a dead bird, please call 708-633-8025 to report your sighting.

CCDPH staff will let you know if the bird needs to be picked up for laboratory testing. Information regarding proper methods for handling and disposing of a dead bird is also available at the phone number listed above.

CCDPH is committed to protecting your health. We will continue to work with private medical providers, hospitals, laboratories, the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control to detect the presence of WNV in our communities.

About Us

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)

CCDPH provides clinical, regulatory and prevention services to protect the health of 2.3 million suburban Cook County (SCC) residents and tens of thousands of people who travel daily through our jurisdiction.

For more information

Cook County Department of Public Health

www.cookcountypublichealth.org | **website**

708-633-4000 | **main telephone number**

708-633-8025 | **to report a dead bird**

Illinois Department of Public Health

www.idph.state.il.us / envhealth / wnv.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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

FIGHT THE BITE.
PREVENT WEST NILE VIRUS

FIGHT THE BITE.
PREVENT WEST NILE VIRUS

COOK COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITALS SYSTEM
CCHHS

Cook County Department of Public Health

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is an infection carried by mosquitoes. In the past, WNV was found in Africa, the Middle East and in parts of Europe, Russia, India and Indonesia. WNV may have entered the United States through an infected traveler, bird or mosquito and first appeared here on the east coast of the United States in 1999.

People get WNV from the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds that carry the virus in their blood. Once infected, the mosquito can spreadthe virus to humans and other animals.

Who can become infected?

Anybody can become infected with WNV so it's important to protect yourself from mosquito bites. People over the age of 50 and those with chronic diseases such as heart disease or cancer may be more at-risk for serious illness. Most human cases occur in late summer and early fall.

What are the symptoms?

Most people infected with WNV have no symptoms and never become ill. Some people may become ill 3-15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Symptoms may include fever, headache, rash and body aches. More severe symptoms may be a high fever, stiff neck, confusion, and muscle weakness.

How is it treated?

No specific treatment or vaccine for WNV exists. In severe cases, hospitalization may be necessary. If you believe you may have been infected, call your doctor.

How can I fight the bite?

Don't allow mosquitoes to breed!

- Check the outside of your home and get rid of any items that may hold water such as old tires, buckets, or bottles.
- Empty plastic wading pools twice weekly. Store inside when not in use.
- Store boats covered or upside down.
- Water bowls for pets should be emptied and refilled daily.

Empty containers with standing water.

Protect Your Self & Family!

- Limit time outdoors when mosquito activity is heaviest (dusk to dawn).
- If outside, wear socks, shoes, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light-colored clothing is best.
- Use repellents containing 25-35% DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow label directions.
- Talk to your doctor before applying repellent to infants or children.
- Protect babies and small children by using mosquito netting over strollers.
- Keep weeds and grass cut short.
- Be sure screens in homes are in good repair and tight fitting.
- Keep gutters clean and in good repair.