



West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes become infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) when they feed on infected birds. West Nile Virus can then be spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito.

The virus is not transmitted through contact with others (such as kissing or touching).

PREVENTION

Reduce the risk of infection:

- Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by reducing standing water around your home (e.g., swimming pools, bird baths, flower pots, etc.)
- Repair damaged door and window screens
- Avoid being outside during peak periods of mosquito activity (ie., dawn and dusk)
- Use insect repellants containing Deet or Icaridin; follow manufacturer instructions for use
- There is no vaccine available for preventing human West Nile Virus infection.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

of WNV may include:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Fever | • Nausea/vomiting |
| • Headache & body aches | • Confusion & drowsiness |
| • Mild skin rash | • Muscle weakness & |
| • Swollen lymph glands | paralysis |

There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus infection. The virus can be confirmed in humans by testing blood or the fluid surrounding the brain and spine.



Learn how to reduce your risk at

niagararegion.ca/health

905-688-8248 ext, 7590