

The City of Vernon's West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Program includes mosquito control and adult mosquito surveillance with funding from the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.

Mosquito Control: Standing water has been mapped and is monitored throughout the summer. When mosquito larvae are present, crews apply a bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis var israeliensis (Bti)* to the surface of the water which kills the larvae without affecting any other insects, birds, amphibians, fish or mammals.



Mosquito larvae in catch basins are treated with a different bacteria (*Bacillus sphaericus*) which is pre-measured in 10g pouches.



Adult mosquitoes are captured with the use of a light trap. There are approximately 45 species of mosquitoes in British Columbia and not all are able to transmit WNV. The mosquitoes captured in Vernon are identified to determine whether they are capable of transmitting WNV.



For More Information:

BC Center for Disease Control
www.bccdc.ca

Interior Health
www.interiorhealth.ca

Tracking the West Nile Virus

The Interior Health Authority is tracking the West Nile Virus and is asking for your help. If you find a dead crow, raven, magpie or jay, and it is in good condition (not decayed), please call the West Nile Virus Information Line at **1-866-300-0520**. To report the sighting of a dead bird online, visit <http://westnile.bccdc.ca>



This brochure is funded by the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and can be found online at www.vernon.ca



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West Nile VIRUS

Risk Reduction Program



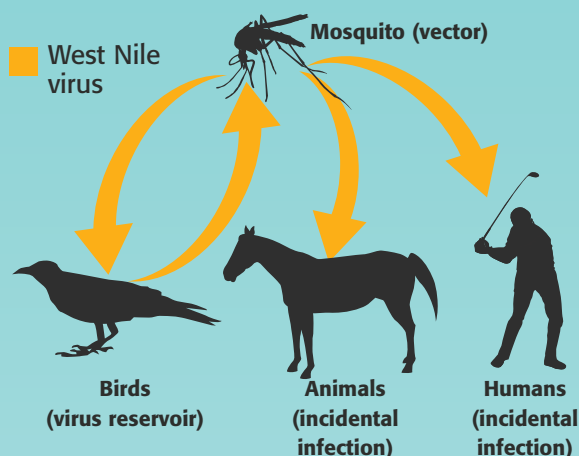
The West Nile Virus has been detected in the Okanagan

Learn to Protect Yourself!

West Nile Virus Facts

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a disease of birds that is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite an infected bird and then when the mosquito bites again, it can pass on the virus. When an infected mosquito passes the virus to a human, horse or other mammal, it is a dead-end for the virus, because although the virus can make the new host very sick, non-bird hosts do not become contagious and cannot pass on the virus to each other or even back to mosquitoes.

WEST NILE VIRUS TRANSMISSION CYCLE



Signs and Symptoms

The majority of people infected with WNV show no symptoms. About 20% of those people who are infected with the virus will suffer from severe flu-like symptoms like fever, headache, and fatigue. In rare cases (less than 1% of the time), infected individuals will experience a more serious illness with symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, blurred vision, confusion, and muscle weakness and some of these people will die. If you experience these symptoms, please contact your doctor.

Remember! Humans get the WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito, so protect yourself from mosquito bites!

How Can I Protect Myself?

Reduce Larval Development Sites!

All mosquitoes start their life in water. Bird baths, swimming pool covers, old tires, clogged eaves, cattle hoof-prints, the rims of planters, old buckets, children's wading pools, and wheelbarrows can all hold water and provide a place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. Keep these items free of water. Even as much as a cup full of water can produce thousands of mosquitoes over the summer.



Tip: Place a large inflated ball under your pool cover to prevent the cover from filling with water and debris.



Tip: Place a screen over your rainbarrel to keep female mosquitoes from laying eggs on the surface of the water



Avoid Being Bitten by Mosquitoes

- **Cover your skin:** Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants made from tightly-woven clothing makes it difficult for mosquitoes to bite your skin.
- **Wear light-colored clothing:** Mosquitoes find darker clothing more attractive, so the lighter the color of your clothing, the less likely you are to be a mosquito's dinner.
- **Use an approved mosquito repellent:** The Interior Health Authority recommends using a repellent that contains DEET or Lemon Oil of Eucalyptus. Follow the direction on the label.
- **Don't depend on bug zappers, scented candles, or mosquito buzzers:** There is no evidence that these products are effective.
- **Repair or replace damaged screens on doors and windows:** Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and at dawn and they will enter your house at night if your screens are missing or have holes.
- **Be active at dawn and dusk:** When mosquitoes are biting, go for a bike ride or run rather than taking part in slower activities so the mosquitoes can't catch you!

