[](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

**INSERT LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

[**Michigan DHHS - West Nile Virus**](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-25805---,00.html)

[**Michigan Mosquito Control Association**](http://www.mimosq.org/)

[**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/)

**Bats, Bugs, and Bacteria Month**

* West Nile Virus is a virus that is transmitted to humans by an infected mosquito. It was first detected in Michigan in August of 2002. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals.
* There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile Virus infection.
* 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea or a rash. Less than 1% of infected people will develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.
* People over 60 years of age are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill from West Nile Virus. People who already suffer from illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney disease are also at higher risk of becoming seriously ill.
* People that have been bitten by an infected mosquito usually develop symptoms within 2 to 6 days. The majority of people infected with West Nile Virus will have no symptoms.
* About 70% of positive samples for West Nile Virus come from the species *Culex pipiens* and related species of *Culex*. The *Culex* species of mosquito does not fly more than 2 miles from its birth area. This mosquito’s habitat includes wooden and swampy areas, but it will also lay eggs in standing water in abandoned tires, bird baths, buckets, and other water holding items. The *Culex pipiens* primarily hatches in July and August.

**Information Resources:**

# Facts:

**West Nile Virus**

Symptoms of West Nile virus usually last for only a few days, although severe disease symptoms may last weeks.  Some neurological effects may be permanent.

Less than 1% of people infected with West Nile will progress to a more severe infection called West Nile encephalitis/meningitis. Symptoms of encephalitis/meningitis include all or some of the following:

* Stiff neck
* Disorientation
* Tremors
* Seizures or convulsions
* Paralysis
* Coma
* Death

No vaccine can prevent West Nile Virus. The best prevention is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and taking steps to reduce breeding areas.

**Recommended steps to prevent mosquito breeding and bites**

* Reduce time outdoors, especially at dusk, during mosquito seasons
* Wear lightweight long sleeves and long pants if you are outdoors
* If outdoors, apply insect repellent exposed skin or clothing that contains the active ingredient, DEET. (Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions)
* Maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings
* Avoid standing water in the yard because they are potential mosquito breeding sites. Empty standing water from flower pot bases, pet bowls, rain gutters, swimming pool covers, discarded tires, buckets, barrels, cans, etc.

**Contact either your local health department or any of the following agencies for information on West Nile Virus in your county.**

* Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
* Michigan Department of Natural Resources
* Michigan State University Extension Office

**Available Services:**