

West Nile Virus - Disease Facts

The virus was discovered in 1937 in Africa, but was unknown in the U.S.A. until 1999 when an outbreak occurred in New York City.

The disease spread from NYC to the west coast in 3 years, an astonishing expansion.

The disease is primarily a disease of birds transmitted by mosquitoes, but can also cause disease in humans and horses. Evidence of West Nile virus infections has been found in many other species, including squirrels, dogs, cats, bats, whitetail deer, black bears and alligators.

Because the virus can survive the winter in hibernating mosquitoes or mosquito eggs, the risk of WNV cases will continue to be present each summer.

West Nile Symptoms

Most people infected with West Nile virus will not develop symptoms, or will experience a mild illness.

Some people may become ill 3-15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. The symptoms may include fever, headache, body aches and sometimes a skin rash and swollen glands.

Infrequently, an infection may result in West Nile encephalitis, marked by headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle tremors and/or weakness, and paralysis. A small number of cases have been fatal.

Severe illness and/or deaths are much more common in individuals over 50 years of age. Full recovery may be prolonged, and some individuals may have permanent disabilities.

For More Information About West Nile Virus and How You Can Help

For Health Information about the Disease:
Indiana State Department of Health
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-1325

For Mosquito Control, Animal Protection and General Farming Information:

Purdue Extension Service
(888) 398-4636
www.ces.purdue.edu
e-mail: extension@aes.purdue.edu

Board of Animal Health
805 Beachway Drive, Room 50
Indianapolis, IN 46224
(317) 227-0300

For Manure Management To Eliminate Breeding Places and for Farming Information:
Contact your County Soil & Water Conservation District

Information for this brochure provided courtesy of the LaGrange County Health Department



Indiana State
Department of Health

WEST NILE VIRUS

*What You Can Do to
Protect Your Family,
Animals and Wildlife*



