



## What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

- WNV is a virus transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. It causes an infection resulting in swelling of the brain (encephalitis). In a small percentage of people, the disease can be fatal. It can infect humans, birds, horses and some other mammals.

## What are the symptoms of West Nile Virus?

- Most people show no symptoms or have mild symptoms of the disease
- Mild symptoms include fever, headache, muscle weakness, body aches, often with skin rash and swollen lymph glands
- People with more severe cases of the disease may have severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, confusion, coma, tremors, and paralysis

## What can I do to protect my family?

- Use EPA approved insect repellent
- Wear protective clothing such as long sleeved shirts and pants
- Limit outdoor activity from dusk until dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- Avoid areas where mosquitoes are present (wooded and shaded areas)
- Maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water that collects in bird baths, boats, buckets, tires, unused pools, roof gutters, and other containers

## How is it spread?

- It is spread via the bite of an infected mosquito
- It is not transmitted from person-to-person

## Whom should be notified if an individual has a mosquito bite and develops symptoms?

- Report any symptoms of illness to your doctor

## When can the individual return to the general population?

- Following recommendation of your doctor

## If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017
- County residents can get information for reporting dead birds at: [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch) or (888) 668-086.