

What are the symptoms?

Most people who are infected with WNV have no symptoms. Those who do become ill usually have mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. Ill persons may also develop a skin rash and swollen lymph glands.

Rarely, infection can result in West Nile encephalitis, a sometimes fatal illness. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain that may be marked by headache, high fever, stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection, although supportive care is important.



courtesy Hawai'i Biological Survey

Questions on West Nile Virus?

Call the Hawai'i State Department of Health

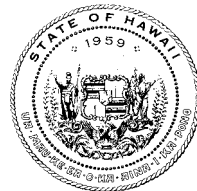
O'ahu: 586-4400

Big Island: 933-0912

Maui, Moloka'i, or Lana'i: 984-8213

Kaua'i: 241-3387

or visit the Department of Health web site at www.state.hi.us/doh/wnv



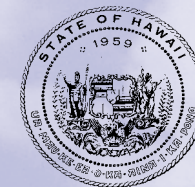
Linda Lingle, Governor
Chiyome Fukino, M.D., Director of Health

** We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age sex, religion or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.

The Buzz About West Nile Virus



A mosquito-transmitted disease

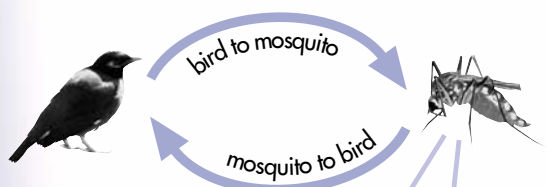


Hawai'i State
Department
of Health

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease that is found in many parts of the world, and usually cycles between mosquitoes and birds. Sometimes, mosquitoes involved in this cycle bite humans and animals, and infect them. WNV cannot be passed from person to person.

To date, there has been no evidence of WNV in Hawai'i. The State Department of Health is working with a variety of federal, state and local agencies to prevent the introduction of WNV to Hawai'i.



mosquito to people and animals



courtesy CDC

How do we prevent WNV?

Eliminate Standing Water

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Keep mosquitoes away from your home by limiting the number of items that hold water unnecessarily.

- Remove anything that collects rainwater, such as cans, bottles, buckets, used tires, flowerpots, abandoned cars and boats.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Cover garbage cans, uncapped hollow tile walls and fence pipes.
- For large objects and plants you can't remove (such as bromeliads, pineapple lilies, banana trees, hollow bamboo or tree stumps), spray the breeding area with a solution of 4-6 oz. of liquid dish detergent in a gallon of water every week.
- Empty and clean watering containers for pets and livestock at least once a week.
- Check your screen doors and windows for rips and tears...and fix them.
- Clean out flower vases and replace the water.
- Spray mosquitoes with aerosol insecticides labeled for flying insects.



Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) when you're outdoors.
- Use care in applying repellent to children: don't put repellent on their hands, and be careful to avoid their mouths and eyes. Products containing 10% or less DEET are the most appropriate for children aged 2-12 years.
- Whenever possible, wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants, and socks while outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin, because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Avoid activities in areas where mosquitoes are plentiful.

Always read and follow the product directions when using any insect repellent or insecticide!

Report Dead Birds

Dead birds may mean that West Nile virus is circulating between the birds and the mosquitoes in that area. The public can play an important role in monitoring the virus by reporting dead birds to the Department of Health.

While you should avoid directly touching the dead bird, you cannot catch WNV by touching a dead bird. Bird drop off points have been set up across the state including the Humane Society on all islands, as well as the Division of Forestry and Wildlife/DLNR in Hilo, Kamuela and Kahului.

...things you can do to help