



MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

Submitted by: Leslie Kinnee, Public Information Officer
615 N. State St., Stanton, MI 48888-9702
989-831-3669, kinnee@mmdhd.org

www.mmdhd.org



9/4/15

West Nile Virus present in Michigan

We may be bidding summer a fond farewell, but the mosquitoes plan to stick around awhile, which means we need to continue to protect ourselves from mosquito bites and West Nile Virus.

Mosquitoes are known carriers of West Nile Virus (WNV), a disease which is contracted while feeding on infected birds, and then passed on to humans. Positive cases of West Nile Virus have recently been reported in Michigan, so it's important for residents to do all they can to stay healthy.

At this time, there is no specific treatment for WNV infection, which means that it's important to take precautions to avoid getting infected. Precautions include:

- Maintaining window and door screens to help keep mosquitoes out of buildings.
- Emptying water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, unused kiddie pools and old tires.
- Avoiding the outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wearing light colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn.
- Applying insect repellent to exposed skin or clothing, following manufacturer's directions.

While most people bitten by a WNV infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness, about one in five will experience mild illness with fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands, or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Mild cases do improve without medical treatment, but about one in 150 infected people will become severely ill.

For more information on WNV and surveillance activity updates, visit www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.