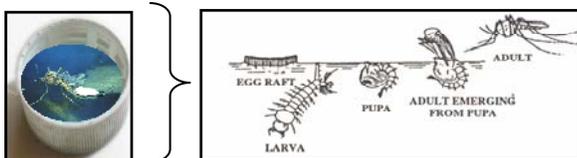


# WEST NILE VIRUS: Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS?

West Nile virus is carried by infected mosquitoes that can bite and infect humans horses and birds and make them sick.



- West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes hibernate during the fall and winter
- In the spring, females lay their WNV infected eggs in the spring in standing water—any size, anywhere

## WHO IS AT RISK?

Everyone is at risk for infection. Those at highest risk of life threatening disease are over 50 years of age, or have weak immune systems from another illness or condition.



## HOW SERIOUS A THREAT IS IT?

- Most mosquitoes do not carry WNV
- 80% of infected people have no symptoms and up to 20% will have mild illness and recover on their own
- Of those infected, 1 in 150 can develop severe symptoms or even death
- WNV is not a contagious disease



## HOW IS WNV DETECTED?

Sick or dead birds are often a sign of WNV. While not all dead birds will be collected and tested, your call is important to help control mosquitoes and monitor LAC and CA efforts:

LAC Veterinary Public Health: 1-877-747-2243

California Health Services: 1-877-968-2473

## WHAT ARE THE "3 D's" ABOUT?

### DRAIN

ALL mosquitoes must have water in which to complete their life cycle

- Drain unnecessary standing water
- Report any "green" swimming pools to your city
- Change water in wading pools, pet dishes and bird baths several times a week
- Cover trash cans, recyclables, any object where water can collect



### DAWN & DUSK



- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active—at dawn and at dusk
- Protect yourself by wearing long sleeves and pants
- Don't use bug zappers—they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

### DEFEND!

- Keep door and window screens in good condition
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Use insect repellents with Deet or other EPA- approved repellents, such as oil of eucalyptus, to protect bare skin
- Spray insect repellent on your clothes to prevent mosquitoes from biting through your clothes



### Need further information about WNV?

CDC WNV Hotline: 1-800-232-4636

[www.cdc.gov/westnile/](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/)