

West Nile Virus Season Is Here!

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that first showed up in our region in 2002. This virus has been present every year since 2002. Aberdeen Mosquito Control is monitoring and testing the mosquitoes most commonly known to transmit this virus. We cannot eliminate this virus. Aberdeen Mosquito Control urges citizens to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The type of mosquito most common for transmitting WNV is present in our area and is most active from dusk until dawn.

How can people reduce their chance of getting WNV?

The most effective way to prevent WNV is to avoid mosquito bites:

Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors from dusk through dawn.

Apply insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET provide the best protection.

Reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home by eliminating standing water from containers such as flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, discarded tires, and

birdbaths. Anything that holds water for more than a week could be producing mosquitoes.

How do people get infected with WNV?

Most people get infected with WNV by an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals. In a very small number of cases, West Nile virus has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, and from mother to baby during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.

Who is at risk for serious illness if infected with WNV?

Serious illness can occur in people of any age. However, people over 60 years of age are at the greatest risk for severe disease. People with certain medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and people who have received organ transplants, are also at greater risk for serious illness.

For more information about West Nile virus and mosquito control visit www.aberdeen.sd.us or call Aberdeen Mosquito Control at 605.626.7015

Symptoms of West Nile Virus

No symptoms in most people. Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms.

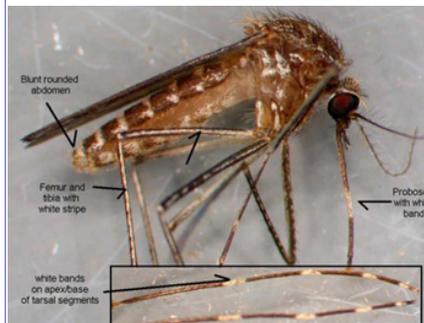
Febrile illness in some people. About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

Severe symptoms in a few people. Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). The symptoms of neurologic illness can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, or paralysis.

Recovery from severe disease may take several weeks or months. Some of the neurologic effects may be permanent. About 10 percent of people who develop neurologic infection due to West Nile virus will die.

Know Your Mosquitoes

The *Culex tarsalis* is a common mosquito in the Dakotas and the primary vector of West Nile virus in our region. In the past few years many of these mosquitoes from the Aberdeen area have tested positive for West Nile virus. These mosquitoes are most active at dusk and



tend to feed on birds early in the summer. As the population of this species increases, the behavior of the birds divert the mosquitoes feeding habit to mammals which can include horses and humans. The majority of human West Nile virus cases in the Dakotas occur in August. The incubation period in humans; or the time from infection until you

notice symptoms is usually 2 - 15 days. The *Culex tarsalis* is characterized by a broad white band on the proboscis. These mosquitoes are very successful at reproducing in multiple habitats. They will lay their eggs in rain barrels, ponds, ditches, rain gutters, old discarded tires, irrigation canals, etc. Almost any place that holds water for up to a week is a potential breeding site for this mosquito.

Keep the Skeeters Down in Your Neighborhood

Finally..... it appears that the winter of 2013-2014 has come to an end. The snow has melted, the skies have opened, and now what used to be snow and ice, is melted and alive with little wrigglers, also known as mosquito larvae. The recent rains and increasing temperatures have the mosquito habitat producing those pesky skeeters again. It generally takes 10 -14 days for mosquitoes to go from egg to adult. However, this time line can occur faster as conditions become warmer.

Aberdeen Mosquito Control maintains a comprehensive larvicide program. Crews have identified and mapped sites around our community. These sites are inspected and treated with public health pesticides on a regular schedule. But we still need help from homeowners to identify and eliminate breeding sites on private property. We do not have the resources to inspect all private property in the city. You can help by inspecting your property and getting rid of any standing water. If you have a large site that cannot be drained or a swimming pool that is not being used or may not be used until later this summer, contact the Aberdeen Mosquito Control at 605-626-7015 and we'll inspect and treat the water with a product designed to prevent mosquitoes from hatch.

Common Mosquito Breeding Habitat:

- * Drainage Ditches
- * Old Tires
- * Swimming Pools not being used
- * Wading pools
- * Boats or a saggy tarp on a boat
- * Leaky garden hose or outside faucet
- * Plugged rain gutters
- * Any open container that has water– i.e. recycle bins, garbage cans and lids, wheel barrow, flower pots, even something as small as a pop bottle cap.
- * Rain water collecting barrels
- * Cans, bottles, plastic jugs, jars

Any standing water is a potential breeding site for mosquitoes.

Thank you for helping us reduce mosquitoes in our community!

Repellents: Still One of the Best Ways to Prevent Mosquito Bites

Unfortunately, there's no easy solution to controlling mosquitoes. The more rain and standing water we have, the more mosquito habitat available for those pesky critters. The start of the 2014 mosquito season has been hot and wet thereby producing a healthy hatch of skeeters. Eliminating mosquito breeding sites is essential to keeping the mosquito population in check.

When the adult mosquito population seems unbearable, turn to one of the best prevention methods available...a can of OFF! Mosquito repellents with DEET are safe and very effective when applied according to the label. They've even improved many of these products so they go on dry, not oily. Don't let these pesky critters win the outdoor battle this summer. Eliminate any standing water on your property and apply repellents with DEET when outdoors.



PROTECTION TIMES FOR TESTED MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

Product	Active Ingredient	Avg Protection Time
OFF! Deep Woods	23.8% DEET	5 hours
Sawyer Controlled Release	20% DEET	4 hours
OFF! Skintastic	6.65% DEET	2 hours
Repel Lemon Eucalyptus	Oil of eucalyptus; p-menthane 3, 8-diol (PMD)	2 hours
Bite Blocker for Kids	2% Soybean Oil	1.5 hours
OFF! Skintastic for Kids	4.75% DEET	1.5 hours
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard+	7.5% IR3535	23 minutes
Natrapel	10% Citronella	20 minutes
Green Ban for People	10% Citronella, 2% peppermint oil	14 minutes
Buzz Away	5% Citronella	14 minutes
Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard	0.1% Citronella	10 minutes
Gone Original Wristband	9.5% DEET	0
Repello Wristband	9.5% DEET	0

Notify Me Alerts

Sign up to receive email and/or text message alerts regarding city-wide mosquito spraying.

Go to the City of Aberdeen website at www.aberdeen.sd.us.

Click on the 'Notify Me' tab on the left side of the page.

Type in your email address and select 'Sign In'. If you would like cell text messages, you can also enter your cell phone number.

Select the City-Wide Mosquito Spray and any other alerts of interest.

Save your profile and Sign Out.

Your will receive a 'test message' that requires your response.

Mosquito Trap Daily Counts

Check out the daily mosquito counts found on the Mosquito Control web site at www.aberdeen.sd.us/mosquitocontrol.

Also found on the web site is the spray routes used when performing a city-wide spray.

This publication is provided as a service of Aberdeen Mosquito Control. Please call (605) 626-7015 with any questions.