

West Nile Virus

Description

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a seasonal epidemic that occurs during summers normally, with a flare up in the fall. It is a serious illness with potentially permanent effects. It is usually transmitted through mosquito bites.

Symptoms

Most people (approximately 80%) will show no symptoms at all. For those cases that do show symptoms, they resemble the flu:

- Fever
- Body aches
- Nausea
- Headaches

Some severe symptoms include:

- Disorientation
- Neck stiffness
- Convulsions
- Vision loss
- Paralysis

Transmission

A bite from an infected mosquito is the most common form of transmission for WNV. A mosquito can feed on an infected bird and thus become a carrier. It will then transmit to humans through biting.

A small number of transmissions have been through transfusions, transplants, and from mother to child during pregnancy.

Treatment

Currently there is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus.

Some people experience symptoms that are mild and go away on their own without any medical attention. These include fever and body aches.

With more severe cases, going to the hospital is required in order to have access to IV fluids and further nursing care.

Those who experience confusion, fever, and severe head aches are encouraged to seek immediate medical attention.

Fight The Bite!

- Avoid mosquito bites
- Mosquito proof your home
- Wear long pants and long sleeved shirts if you are going to be outdoors for significant periods of time
- Use insect repellent containing DEET
- Empty/change still standing water such as buckets, bird baths, pet drinking dishes, etc.

For More Information:

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