

West Nile Virus

The City's Environmental Services Department Vector Control Program works hard to protect you and your loved ones from West Nile Virus (WNV).

How?



ESD fogs areas within El Paso County to control and decrease the adult mosquito population.

ESD treats stagnant water around El Paso to eliminate mosquito larvae.

ESD captures adult mosquitoes for identification and analysis.

REPORT

Call **311** to report a mosquito problem in your neighborhood.

The Mission of the ESD is to provide Code Enforcement, Environmental Health and Integrated Solid Waste Management Services to the Greater El Paso Community so they can enjoy a Healthy, Clean, Safe and Beautiful Environment.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



WEST NILE VIRUS



West Nile Virus **FACTS**



Mosquito-borne infection

Commonly found in Africa, West Europe, West Asia, and Middle East

First appeared in U.S. in New York in 1999

Arrived in Texas in summer 2002

Reported in mosquitoes, birds, horses, and **humans.**

West Nile Virus **SYMPTOMS**

MILD INFECTION

flu-like symptoms
fever
headache
body ache
swollen lymph glands

SEVERE INFECTION

high fever
neck stiffness
disorientation
muscle weakness
convulsions, paralysis, coma

- ✘ Symptoms appear 3-14 days after bite from infected mosquito
- ✘ WNV can also cause encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain
- ✘ Death rates associated with **severe** infections range from 3%-15%, highest among elderly and infants

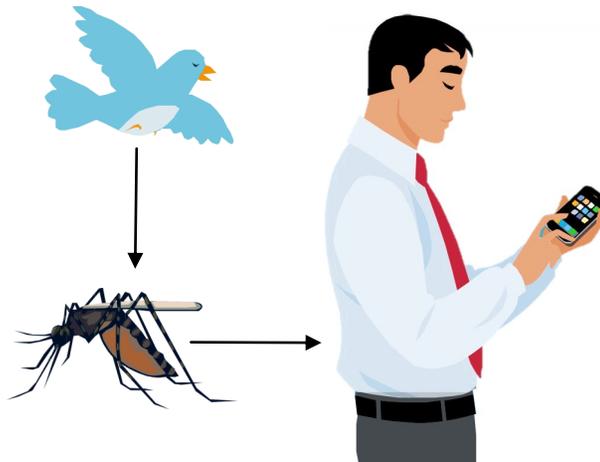
West Nile Virus **RISKS**

- ✘ Risk from single mosquito bite extremely low
- ✘ Less than 1% of people are bitten by infected mosquitoes where WNV is present
- ✘ Less than 1% of people **bitten and infected** develop severe illness

Those older than 50 are at **highest risk** because as we age, our bodies have a harder time fighting disease. People with weak immune systems are also at increased risk.

How does the virus spread?

A mosquito contracts WNV by feeding on a bird already carrying the virus. The infection then typically spreads to humans and animals through the saliva of the infected mosquito.



Is there treatment?

There is no specific treatment for a WNV infection. While most people fully recover, some severe cases require hospitalization.

A doctor will evaluate the patient's symptoms, results of blood/spinal fluid tests, and the number of times the patient has been exposed to WNV.

Protect **YOURSELF**

- ✘ Stay indoors at dusk and dawn during warm months
- ✘ Cover up when outside for long periods of time with shoes, socks, pants, long sleeves
- ✘ Wear mosquito repellent with DEET.*
Spray on skin **and** clothing
- ✘ Make sure your home has screens

*Use products with less than 10% DEET on children 2-12. Do not use DEET on infants/pregnant women. Read product instructions carefully.

Stop Mosquito **BREEDING**



- Check outside your home for containers that can hold stagnant water (cans, jars, plant pots)
- Properly dispose of old tires
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly
- Store plastic pools, buckets, wheel barrows upside down
- Change water in pet bowls/birdbaths once a week
- Aerate ornamental ponds, or stock with fish
- Keep yards trimmed; no weeds, tall grass
- Make holes on the bottom of outside containers used to hold recyclable items
- Use landscaping to prevent accumulation of water