

## West Nile Virus

In 2001 West Nile Virus (WNV) was detected for the first time in Illinois in birds, horses and mosquitoes. WNV is transmitted to humans **ONLY** from the bite of an infected mosquito.

People over the age of 50 are at greater risk for becoming seriously ill when they get infected with West Nile Virus. People under age 50 can also become sick, but it is less likely to be fatal.

Many people who get infected with West Nile Virus do not exhibit any symptoms. Some people develop a mild illness called West Nile Virus Fever. This mild illness usually gets better on its own without any treatment.

A small number of people (less than 1 out of 100) who get infected with West Nile Virus develop severe illness, called West Nile Encephalitis.

Symptoms of severe illness include headache, high fever, stiff neck, mental confusion, muscle weakness, tremors (shaking), convulsions, coma and paralysis.

Seek medical attention if you develop these symptoms.



## Chikungunya

Chikungunya (pronunciation: \chik-en-gun-ye) is: a virus that is spread through mosquito bites—the same *Aedes* mosquitoes that spread dengue. Signs and symptoms of disease:

*Aedes albopictus*



- More likely to play a larger role in transmission in the United States due to its wide distribution.
- Biting adults are found both indoors and outdoors, but are most commonly found outdoors.
- Larvae occur in peridomestic habitats as well as surrounding natural habitats.

Symptoms usually begin 3-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

The most common symptoms are fever and severe joint pain, often in the hands and feet. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash. Most patients will feel better within a week. Some people develop longer-term joint pain that can last weeks to months.

Death is rare but can occur. People at increased risk for severe disease include newborns exposed during delivery, older adults (65 + years) and people with medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or heart disease.

# Mosquito Control What You Need to Know



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## Mosquitoes

To prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property, it helps for you to know a little about the mosquitoes lifecycle. The eggs hatch....become swimming larvae, then pupae and finally, flying adults. Only female mosquitoes bite. They require a "blood meal" in order to develop eggs to produce more mosquitoes. Most female mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water.

### Mosquito Prevention

Within your community, you can effectively reduce mosquito problems using common sense and environmentally conscious methods like these:

#### STOCK ORNAMENTAL PONDS WITH FISH:

Goldfish and freshwater minnows (*Gambusia affinis*) eat mosquito larvae.

#### ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP:

This is a great community project that will eliminate lots of potential mosquito breeding spots and improve the view! Concentrate on water holding debris like car tires and containers.

### WEAR REPELLENT

Apply insect Repellent when outdoors as indicated on the Repellent label. The more **DEET** a product contains, the longer the Repellent can protect against mosquito bites. However, concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase the length of protection. For most situations, 10 percent to 25 percent DEET is adequate. Apply Repellents to clothes whenever possible; apply sparingly to exposed skin if label permits. Consult a physician before using Repellents on young children.



## Mosquito Control

### What Can You Do?

#### Mosquitoes they need water to develop.

##### Prevent Mosquitoes from breeding by:

- ☞ Eliminate unnecessary water and water holding containers.
- ☞ Clean out rain gutters and downspouts.
- ☞ Eliminate hiding places by cutting weeds, pruning shrubs and disposing of useless artificial containers and other junk.
- ☞ Follow manufacturers recommendations for proper care of swimming pools.
- ☞ Stock ornamental pools with goldfish or minnows.
- ☞ Store pails, barrels, tubs, vases, boats and wheelbarrows upside down.
- ☞ Cover cisterns, rain barrels and fire barrels with fine mesh screen (16x16 meshes to the inch).
- ☞ Repair or replace screens on doors and windows.
- ☞ Apply insect Repellent when outdoors as indicated on the Repellent label.
- ☞ Always read the pesticide label before applying pesticides around the home.
- ☞ Show this brochure to your neighbors. Ask them to do their part.
- ☞ Inspect your property weekly.



## Larvacides

Larvicides target larvae in the breeding habitat before they can mature into adult

mosquitoes and disperse.

Larvicide treatment of breeding habitats help reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas.

Many times

larvaciding is the primary focus of mosquito control personnel. Liquid larvicide products are applied directly to water using backpack sprayers and truck or aircraft-mounted sprayers. Tablet, pellet, granular, and briquet formulations of larvicides are also applied by mosquito controllers to breeding areas. Most larvicides are very safe. For example, the active ingredient in Mosquito Dunks or Mosquito Bits is BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). BTI is a live bacteria that is deadly to mosquito larvae, but harmless to other living things. These products are similar to what is used by mosquito control personnel and are available at home supply stores. If it is not possible to eliminate the water, a larvicide product should be considered.

