

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain caused by the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus (WNV). WNV is a close relative of St. Louis encephalitis and first appeared in the New York City area in 1999. West Nile Virus is most common in Africa, the Middle East, and West and Central Asia. It is not known how the virus entered the United States.

Transmission

West Nile encephalitis is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that is carrying WNV. Mosquitoes become infected with the virus by biting a wild bird that has the virus. Though birds are the primary host of West Nile Virus, it is not transmitted directly from birds to people, or through person to person contact.

Who is at Risk of Contracting West Nile Encephalitis?

The chance of becoming seriously ill from WNV is higher in persons over 50 years of age, however any individual living in areas where West Nile Virus has been detected is at risk. In a 1999 survey of New York City residents, 3% of residents had been infected with West Nile Virus, most showed no symptoms or only a mild illness. The case fatality rate is between 3 and 15 percent. Horses are susceptible to West Nile Virus; dogs and cats are very resistant to the disease.

Symptoms of West Nile Virus

The majority of people who are infected with West Nile Virus show no symptoms. Some may experience mild sickness, headache, or fever before making a full recovery. However, WNV can cause serious disease that affects the brain in some individuals, particularly the elderly. This disease can cause permanent neurological damage resulting in death. Symptoms of West Nile Virus infection can be as mild as a headache, slight fever, swollen lymph glands, rash or as severe as high fever, disorientation, stiff neck, muscle weakness, paralysis, coma or rarely death.



Prevention and Control - What the Village of Chicago Ridge is doing to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus Prevention Plan for Chicago Ridge

1. Surveillance / Testing
 - a. Use of adult mosquito traps
 - b. Dead birds to be reported to the Village.
2. Larviciding (Treating breeding areas)
 - a. Bti and Altosid Briquettes
 - b. Treatment of catch basins
3. Adult Mosquito Control (Spraying)
 - a. Adulticiding triggers
 - i. WNV positive mosquitoes
 - ii. Local multiple sick dead birds
 - b. Council to authorize spraying of Village when triggers are confirmed
4. Reducing Mosquito Breeding
 - a. Homeowner reduction of mosquito sources. Regularly remove/replace standing water in:
 - i. Birdbaths
 - ii. Buckets of standing water
 - iii. Other locations on property
5. Public Education
 - a. Information pamphlets
 - b. Newsletter
 - c. Website
 - d. Special meetings
6. Individual Use of Mosquito Repellent
 - a. Protect oneself
 - b. Protect loved ones



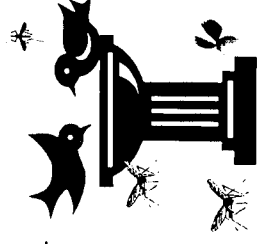
More Information

The Illinois Department of Public Health has a website with information on West Nile Virus. www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm

Prevention and Control—What residents can do to help prevent the spread of West Nile Virus

Did you know? Any amount of water remaining undisturbed for more than a week can become a production site for mosquitoes.

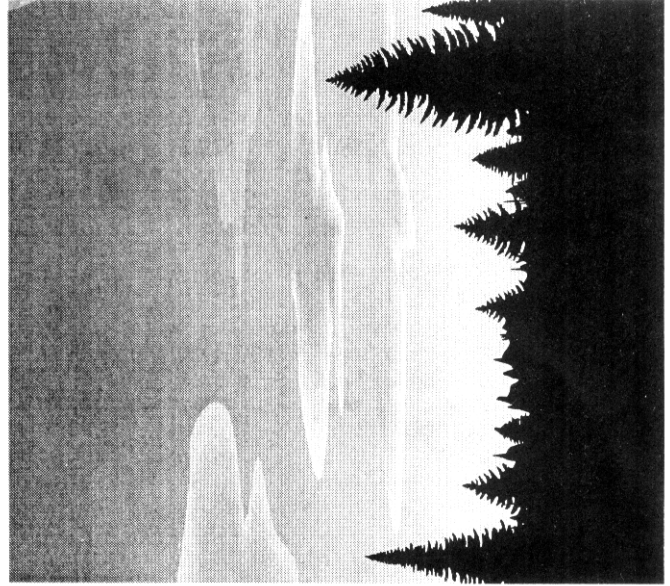
1. Eliminate unnecessary water holding containers, especially tires, large cans, and bottles.
2. Keep water clean in children's wading pool and drain when not in use.
3. Keep ditches and streams adjoining your property free of grass clippings, garbage and other debris, which will obstruct the natural flow of water.
4. Keep weeds and grass cut short during summer months.
5. Protect self with repellent.
6. Clean your home's roof gutters frequently, and check storm drains and window wells.
7. Empty standing water from boats, trailers, toys, wheelbarrows and pots. Turn them over when not in use.
8. Drill holes in the bottom of trash receptacles and recycling bins.
9. Empty and clean bird baths at least once a week.
10. Stock ornamental pools and fish ponds with top feeding minnows. Place "Dunk" in ponds, culverts, or standing water to kill mosquito larvae for 30 days. While floating, "Dunk" slowly releases a long term larvicide. Dunk will not affect fish, plants, people, or wildlife.



West Nile Virus

PREVENTION PLAN

A Partnership
Between Residents &
The Village Government



Village of Chicago Ridge

Village of Chicago Ridge
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Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

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**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
CHICAGO RIDGE, IL 60415**

Protecting Yourself

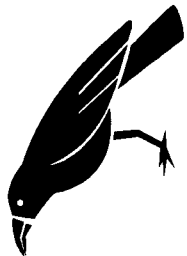
Now that you've eliminated the mosquitoes' breeding grounds, here are some ways to protect yourself from being bitten by mosquitoes.

Inspect all window and door screens to be sure they're "bug tight".

Stay indoors at the times when mosquitoes are most prevalent: morning, dusk, and early evening. When outdoors cover up with long pants and a long sleeved shirt.

Use insect repellents. Repellents deter mosquitoes from biting when applied properly to exposed skin and clothing. Supervise repellent use by children; do not use repellents on children under two years old. For more information about protecting yourself against mosquitoes log onto the internet at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm.

How to Report Dead Birds



Crows, blue jays, and hawks appear highly sensitive to West Nile Virus. Informing the Village of dead bird

sightings could provide an early warning for detecting WNV activity in our community. If you find a dead crow, blue jay, or hawk between April and late October call 425 - 7700. You will be asked your name, the location of the dead bird, and the type of bird.

To dispose of a dead bird, use a shovel, tongs, or gloves and put the bird in securely tied double plastic bags. Throw the bags in the trash.