

Frequently Asked Questions - West Nile Virus:

Do all mosquitoes carry WNV?

No, *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipiens* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* are the primary vector (disease carrying) species in the United States.

Can I get WNV from a human infected with the virus?

No, you can only get WNV from an infected mosquito (rare cases include blood transfusions and organ transplants).

What is the best mosquito repellent to protect against West Nile?

Use any mosquito repellent that contains DEET, and follow the label application instructions. If you wish to use a natural product, make sure it contains oil of lemon eucalyptus – the only natural product recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NOTE: Read the label for these products. Sprays containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three.

Do I really have to spray repellent on my clothing?

Yes. It is recommended you wear clothing that covers your arms and legs when you are outdoors between dusk and dawn – when mosquitoes are most active (especially the *Culex* species, known to carry the West Nile virus). Spray the repellent on your clothing for added protection, since mosquitoes can bite through fabric.

Can my cats and dogs get WNV?

Yes, but there are very few recorded cases and WNV is typically not fatal to dogs and cats.

Is there a WNV vaccine for humans?

No, not yet, however, research is being done to create one.