



TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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MORRIS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTICE

July 30, 2010

Dear Resident:

A mosquito sample from your neighborhood has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The Morris County Mosquito Commission will be conducting additional sampling in the area and possibly limited spraying. Please follow the guidelines below to reduce your risk.

Who Can Protect Me From West Nile?

You can significantly reduce the risk of acquiring WNV by surveying your own property for mosquito breeding sites. Recent studies have shown that the type of mosquito spreading WNV is the type that breeds around homes.

The best way to reduce the possibility of acquiring the virus is to reduce the mosquito population. All mosquitoes require an aquatic stage to complete their life cycle. By reducing the amount of standing water we can reduce the areas where mosquitoes lay their eggs and develop into biting adults. You can help by removing water from tires, birdbaths, wading pools, pool covers, buckets, cans, rain barrels, clogged gutters, wheelbarrows, and plant pots. You can also help by aerating ornamental pools or stocking them with fish, regularly cleaning and chlorinating swimming pools, and by using landscaping to eliminate standing water on your property. **You can make a significant difference by removing these sources.**

To Additionally Reduce Your Risk:

Stay indoors at dawn, dusk, and early evening when mosquitoes are most active.

Wear long sleeves and long pants when outdoors.

Apply insect repellent. Use just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing.

Follow manufacturers label directions.

An effective repellent will contain 20-30% Deet. Deet in higher concentrations may cause side effects, especially children.

Do not apply to children's hands, as repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth. Apply to your own hands and then put it on the child.

WNV is a mosquito borne virus that normally is a disease of birds. However, people may contract the disease when bitten by an infected mosquito. It is not transmitted from person to person contact. There is no evidence to date that people may get the virus from handling dead birds. But to be safe, residents should always avoid bare hand contact with any dead animal or bird, use gloves or double plastic bags.

The symptoms of WNV are usually mild, fever, headache, body ache, possible skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infections can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and rarely, death.

Crows appear to be the best indicator for WNV in an area. A crow's feet, beak, feathers and eyes are all black. If you should find a recently dead crow in good condition, (intact, no flies) please call the Morris Township Health Department at 973-326-7390.