



West Nile virus



Spoil a mosquito's dinner plans

Fight the Bite ...

What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that is spread to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito.

What are the symptoms of West Nile virus?

Most people infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms or have flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches and fatigue. Sometimes West Nile virus can cause severe illness including meningitis and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Symptoms usually develop between two and 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Who is at risk for West Nile virus?

Everyone who is outside during the summer months is at risk for West Nile virus and should take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. People with chronic illnesses and the elderly should be especially careful.

What York Region Is Doing ...

The York Region West Nile virus Control Plan for 2014 includes mosquito-control activities (larviciding), public education, and mosquito and human surveillance.

What is larviciding?

Larviciding is a low-risk and effective measure for the control of West Nile virus. The slow-release pellet formulation interferes with the mosquito lifecycle, preventing the mosquito larva from reaching maturity. Larvicide is not sprayed and will be applied into the standing water of catch basins in four phases from June through September.

Will York Region apply larvicide on private property?

If you are concerned about catch basins on your property, place a mesh screen over the catch basin to prevent mosquitoes from entering and exiting. A limited number of backyard catch basins located on private property will be treated with larvicide on a case-by-case basis.

York Region Community and Health Services does not recommend the use of bat boxes as an effective method for mosquito control as bats in York Region have tested positive for rabies in past summers.

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York Region Health Connection

What You Can Do ...

Prevention and protection are the best ways to protect yourself and your family from West Nile virus.

Clean up

The best way to keep mosquitoes away is to clean-up areas of standing water where they like to breed. Look around your house and property and get rid of places that are "mosquito friendly".

- Clean up and empty containers where water collects (old tires, tin cans, flower pots, etc.)
- Change water in bird baths weekly
- Remove water that collects on pool covers
- Turn over items such as wading pools, wheelbarrows and small boats
- Clear leaves and twigs from eavestroughs, storm and roof gutters
- Unclog drainage ditches so that water flows freely
- Make sure swimming pool pumps are circulating water
- Clear out dense shrubbery where mosquitoes like to rest
- Turn over compost frequently
- Check that door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair
- Drill holes in the bottoms of containers so water can't collect

Cover up

Mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn. Protect yourself and your family

- Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Consider using federally-registered insect repellents on exposed skin, such as those containing DEET
- Always follow product instructions
- The concentration of DEET should be no greater than 30 per cent for adults and no greater than 10 per cent for children
- DEET-based repellents can also be used on top of clothing. Do not use repellents under clothing
- Several DEET-free botanical repellents are federally registered but provide a shorter time of effectiveness.

Community and Health Services

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