CONTROL MOSQUITOES

TIP 'n TOSS

Mosquitoes breed in standing water. To reduce the mosquito population around your home and property, eliminate all standing water and debris.



Pool cover that collects water, neglected swimming pool or child's wading pool



Birdbath (change water weekly) and garden pond (stock with fish)



Any toy, garden equipment, or container that can hold water



Flat roof with standing water



Clogged rain gutter (home and street)



ILLUSTRATIONS ADAPTED FOR USE WITH PERMISSION FROM THE S.C. DHEC



Trash and old tires; Drill drain holes in bottom of tire swings



Tree rot hole, hollow stump or rain puddle



Repair missing, damaged, or improperly installed screens



Uncovered boat or boat cover that collects water



Leaky faucet (repair) or pet bowl (change water daily)

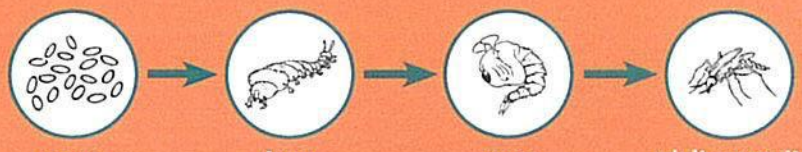
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Georgia Department of Public Health

MOSQUITO

Control Advice



LOCAL SITES WHERE MOSQUITOES BREED

All mosquitoes need standing water to begin their life cycle. Locate all sites that hold water.

Drain, Fill, or Get Rid of Areas that Hold Water

- **Containers that hold water**
- **Swimming Pools** — maintain with proper chemicals, cover or drain if not in use
- **Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items** — pull tight so water won't pool
- **Shallow edges of ponds** — clear of plants and weeds
- **Clogged ditches and pipes** — clean out leaves, dirt, and debris so water flows freely
- **Low places, tire ruts or puddles** — fill with dirt or sand
- **Tree holes and hollow stumps** — pack with dirt or sand
- **Leaky pipes and outdoor faucets** — repair
- **Small areas of water that can't be drained** — treat with larvicides, follow label instructions

Protect Yourself from Biting Mosquitoes

- **Screens on windows, doors and porches** — install or keep in good repair
- **Car windows and garage doors** — keep closed at night
- **Overgrown shrubs, grass, weeds, vines and ground cover** — trim or remove overgrown plants that provide cool/dark/damp areas where adult mosquitoes rest
- **Scented products** — avoid using products that smell like fruit or flowers
- **Protective clothing** — wear long sleeves, long pants and socks
- **Treat clothing and gear** — use permethrin products on clothing, boots, tents or purchase pre-treated items
- **Light-colored clothing** — wear light colors — mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors
- **Insect repellent** — use EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or Picaridin

Contact your local Public Health Department Environmental Health Section with questions.
Protect and Prevent.

Sites with Standing Water That May Breed Mosquitoes

MAN-MADE CONTAINERS

- Cans
- Bottles
- Buckets
- Flower pot saucers
- Plant cuttings rooting in water
- Pet bowls or animal troughs
- Tires
- Birdbaths
- Wheel barrows
- Children's toys and wading pools
- Rain barrels
- Clogged roof gutters & downspouts
- Boats
- Junk cars
- Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items

NATURAL CONTAINERS

- Rock pools
- Tree holes
- Stump holes
- Bamboo stumps
- Magnolia leaves
- Bromeliad and Pitcher plants

NATURAL AREAS

- Ground pools
- Clogged ditches or streams
- Irrigated pastures or farmland
- River and stream floodplains
- Freshwater marsh and swamps
- Salt marsh margins
- Lake/Pond margins with plant growth

FULTON COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

West Nile Virus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is West Nile virus?

- West Nile virus is an arthropod-borne virus (arbovirus) most commonly spread by infected mosquitoes. West Nile virus can cause febrile illness, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).
- West Nile virus transmission has been documented in Europe and the Middle East, Africa, India, parts of Asia, and Australia. It was first detected in North America in 1999, and has since spread across the continental United States and Canada.

How do people get infected with West Nile virus?

- Most people get infected with West Nile virus by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals.
- In a very small number of cases, West Nile virus has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, and from mother to baby during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.

How can people reduce the chance of getting infected?

The most effective way to avoid West Nile virus disease is to prevent mosquito bites:

- Use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide longer-lasting protection.
- Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk through dawn when many mosquitoes are most active.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors. If you have it, use your air conditioning.
- Help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Empty standing water from containers such as flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, and birdbaths.
- Purchase and use Mosquito Dunks (a larvicide used to kill mosquito larvae) to control mosquitos in areas with standing water and in containers that cannot be dumped.
- Make sure windows and screens are in good condition.

Who is at risk for infection with West Nile virus?

- Anyone living in an area where West Nile virus is present in mosquitoes can get infected.
- Outbreaks have been occurring every summer since 1999.
- The risk of infection is highest for people who work outside or participate in outdoor activities because of greater exposure to mosquitoes.

Is there a vaccine available to protect people from West Nile virus?

- No. Currently there is no West Nile virus vaccine available for people.

How soon do people get sick after getting bitten by an infected mosquito?

- The incubation period is usually 2 to 6 days but ranges from 2 to 14 days.
- This period can be longer in people with certain medical conditions that affect the immune system.

What are the symptoms of West Nile virus disease?

- **No symptoms in most people.** Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms.
- **Febrile illness in some people:** About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash.
    - Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.
- **Severe symptoms in a few people:** Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues).
    - The symptoms of neurologic illness can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, or paralysis.
- Recovery from severe disease may take several weeks or months. Some of the neurologic effects may be permanent.
    - About 10 percent of people who develop neurologic infection due to West Nile virus will die.

Who is at risk for serious illness if infected with West Nile virus?

- Serious illness can occur in people of any age. However, people over 60 years of age are at the greatest risk for severe disease. People with certain medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and people who have received organ transplants, are also at greater risk for serious illness.

What should I do if I think a family member might have West Nile virus disease?

- Consult a healthcare provider for evaluation and diagnosis.

How is West Nile virus disease diagnosed?

- Diagnosis is based on a combination of clinical signs and symptoms and specialized laboratory tests of blood or spinal fluid. These tests typically detect antibodies that the immune system makes against the viral infection.

What is the treatment for West Nile virus disease?

- There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection. Over-the-counter pain relievers can be used to reduce fever and relieve some symptoms.
- People with milder symptoms typically recover on their own, although some symptoms may last for several weeks.
- In more severe cases, patients often need to be hospitalized to receive supportive treatment, such as intravenous fluids, pain medication, and nursing care.

When do most cases of West Nile virus disease occur?

- Most people are infected from June through September.

Where do most cases of West Nile virus disease occur?

- West Nile virus disease cases have been reported from all 48 lower states. The weather, numbers of birds that maintain the virus, numbers of mosquitoes that spread the virus, and human behavior are all factors that can influence when and where outbreaks occur.

For more information on West Nile Virus and prevention methods, *contact the Fulton County* Board of Health, *Division of Environmental Health Services, at (404) 613-1301 or* visit our website at www.fultoncountygahealth.org.

*Adapted from https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/genQuestions.html, accessed 8-20-2017