Not all mosquitoes carry West Nile virus (WNV). In this area, it is primarily transmitted by members of the *Culex* species, and only females bite humans. Typically, this mosquito flies short distances (often much less than a mile) to feed. Adult mosquitoes have a life span of a few weeks during the summer months.

**CAN WNV BE TREATED?**

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In milder cases, people experience symptoms such as fever and aches that pass on their own; although, illness can last weeks to months. In serious cases, a person may have to be hospitalized and given supportive treatment (e.g. intravenous fluids, help with breathing), along with nursing care. Currently there is no vaccine for WNV, but the CDC is working with partners to develop one.

**WHO’S AT RISK?**

- Being outside without taking precautions means you are at risk; the more time you spend outdoors (working or playing) the more time you are exposed to bites from an infected mosquito.
- People over 50 are at higher risk to get severe illness; although, all ages can become seriously ill.
- Risk of virus transmission through medical procedures is very low.
- Pregnancy and nursing DO NOT increase risk of becoming infected with WNV.

**CAN ANIMALS BE INFECTED?**

Yes, WNV can infect just about any animal, including dogs and cats; however, the good news is they rarely, if ever, become sick from the virus. Horses appear to be the only domestic animal adversely affected by WNV, and there is a vaccine available.

The City’s communication efforts are a partnership with the public. Be proactive and get signed up today to stay informed.

**Sign up for CodeRed notifications**
Visit www.cityofdenton.com and select the “CodeRED” link at the very top of the page, then select “click here to register.”

**Sign up for eNews notifications**
Visit www.cityofdenton.com and select the “Sign up for eNews” button on the left side of the page.

**Follow the City on Facebook and Twitter**
To get connected, simply visit www.dentononline.com.

**Update your phone number**
Contact Denton Municipal Utilities at (940) 349-8700 to make sure your contact information is current for 311 calls.

For more information concerning mosquito control and the West Nile virus, visit the following links:

- **City of Denton**
  www.cityofdenton.com
- **Denton County**
  www.dentoncounty.com/wnv
- **Texas Department of Health:**
Combat unwanted mosquitoes by eliminating their breeding areas. Mosquitoes only need a few tablespoons of water to breed, and water can collect just about anywhere.

Don’t give mosquitoes a place to stay! Empty standing water around your home and yard, and put the Four D’s to work as your best defense against these pesky bugs.

**ELIMINATE COMMON MOSQUITO HANGOUTS**

Eliminating breeding grounds is the most important and effective mosquito prevention measure. Visit www.dentoncounty.com/wnv to find ways to eliminate mosquito habitats around your home. Help the City control Denton’s mosquito population by eliminating standing water from these and other areas.

- Open trash carts
- Boats and pool covers
- Fountains and bird baths
- Clogged rain gutters
- Low areas
- Water bowls for pets
- Buckets and barrels
- Flower pots and saucers
- Leaky hoses
- Wagons and other toys
- Ponds
- Neglected pools
- Tires
- Piles of trash or debris

Treat stagnant water with Bti briquettes. Each briquette will treat 100 square feet of surface water for 30 days. Bti is not a chemical. To apply, simply drop the briquette in standing water. Bti is available in limited supply from the City or can be purchased at local garden/hardware stores.

**FIGHT THE BITE WITH THE FOUR D’S!**

Remember the Four D’s as your best defense against mosquitoes. Help STOP mosquitoes before they get out of control!

- **DRAIN** standing water around your home, yard, and neighborhood to put an end to mosquito breeding sites.

- **DUSK & DAWN** are the times of day you should try to stay indoors; this is when mosquitoes are most active. Plan ahead to protect yourself and your family.

- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when you’re outside, and spray thin clothing with repellent.

- **DEFEND** yourself by using an insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. For help picking effective repellents, check out the section below for more information.

**CHOOSING A REPELLENT**

Protection varies by species of mosquito. Most mosquitoes that transmit diseases in the United States bite from dusk to dawn. Choose the appropriate repellent for the length of time you’ll be outdoors. Reapply according to product instructions.

To learn more, visit the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) repellent information page at http://1.usa.gov/1vMr1gn.

**WEST NILE VIRUS SYMPTOMS**

West Nile virus (WNV) is a potentially serious virus that is transmitted by mosquitoes and affects the nervous system. According to the CDC, it is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America, and the season typically stretches from late spring through summer and fall.

**SYMPTOMS**

Mild Symptoms, appearing in some people (approximately 20 percent) include:

- Fever
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Body aches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Skin rash

Severe Symptoms, appearing in very few people (less than one percent) include:

- High fever
- Muscle weakness
- Headache
- Vision loss
- Neck stiffness
- Numbness
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Tremors
- Convulsions

If illness does occur, symptoms usually appear within three to 15 days of being bitten by an infected mosquito. If you are concerned about any symptoms you or a family member are experiencing, see your health care provider.

Remember:

Most people affected with WNV show little to NO symptoms.

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND HELP PREVENT WEST NILE VIRUS!**

Learn more at www.cityofdenton.com.