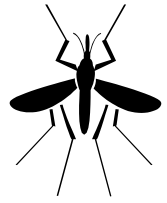


CALTECH ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND
SAFETY OFFICE



WEST NILE VIRUS FAQ
(FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)



What is West Nile virus?

- ✓ West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that is common in Africa, west Asia and the Middle East.

How does someone get West Nile virus?

- ✓ People usually get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. There is also evidence that WNV can be acquired via a blood transfusion or organ transplant from an infected donor.

What are the symptoms and treatment?

- ✓ Most people who are bitten by a mosquito with WNV will not get sick. People who do become ill may experience mild to moderate flu-like symptoms like fever, headache and body ache. It is estimated that less than 1% of the people who are infected with WNV become severely ill and require hospitalization. The elderly and immuno-compromised are particularly susceptible to illness caused by WNV.

How can you protect yourself?

- ✓ Avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are active. They are especially active for two hours after sunset.
- ✓ When outdoors and mosquitoes are active, wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing
- ✓ Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to label instructions.
- ✓ Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- ✓ Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding.

How do I get more information on West Nile virus?

- ✓ California West Nile Virus Surveillance Center
 - www.westnile.ca.gov
- ✓ Centers for Disease Control
 - www.cdc.gov