
***What is being done in Union
County to prevent West Nile virus?***

Union County Vector Control is implementing various control measures based on geographic location and level of risk. For more information regarding activities in your specific area, contact Vector Control at (541) 963-2974.

***Where can I get more
information about West Nile virus?***

Information Lines

Union County Vector Control
(541) 963-2974

Communicable Disease Program at
Center for Human Development, Inc.
Public Health Services
(541) 962-8801

State of Oregon West Nile Virus Hotline
866-703-4636 toll-free

Web Sites

State of Oregon West Nile Virus Info
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/
diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml)

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/
index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm)

Oregon Department of Agriculture Animal
Health & Identification Division
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/
ahid_wnv.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/ahid_wnv.shtml)

This brochure is a joint effort of Union County Vector Control and the Communicable Disease Program at Center for Human Development, Inc. (CHD) Public Health Services.

CHD does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, family status, age or disability. For further information about this policy, contact Human Resources at 541-962-8812, or TTY 1-800-735-2900.

WEST NILE VIRUS

What you need
to know . . .



to protect
yourself and
your family

What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne infection that can cause a potentially serious illness affecting the central nervous system. Although most people who get infected with WNV do not have any symptoms, there are more severe forms that can result in hospitalization or death. There is no human vaccine for WNV.

How is it spread?

WNV is usually spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes become infected after feeding on birds that carry the virus. WNV is **not** spread by contact with animals or other humans.

Who is at risk?

People of all ages can become ill from WNV; however, individuals over the age of 50 have the highest risk of serious illness. People who spend a lot of time outdoors also have a greater chance of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

What are the symptoms?

Most people who get infected with WNV do not have any symptoms. People who develop a more severe illness have symptoms which include:

- Severe headache
- High fever
- Stiff neck
- Mental confusion
- Muscle weakness
- Tremors (shaking)
- Coma
- Paralysis
- Rash

It is important that you contact your health care provider if you develop these symptoms.

How can I protect myself and my family?

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Use Repellent**
Apply mosquito repellent when you go outdoors. Make sure to **read and carefully follow the instructions** on the label before applying.
- **Cover Up**
When you are in areas that have mosquitos, wear long sleeves and long pants when the weather permits. Be aware that bites may occur through thin clothing.
- **Stay Indoors**
Be aware of peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. Be extra careful during these times and stay inside if possible.

Mosquito-proof your home

- **Install or repair screens**
Avoid having mosquitos indoors by making sure they don't have a way to come in through doors or windows.
- **Avoid standing water**
Mosquitos lay eggs in standing water, and only a small amount of water is necessary. Make sure to regularly clean and change water in water troughs, birdbaths and wading pools.
- **Clean Up**
Clean clogged gutters, remove old tires, and get rid of any containers that can collect rain or sprinkler water.

Prevention is the best way to reduce your risk of contracting WNV!

Choosing Mosquito Repellents

Choose a repellent which contains EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) registered ingredients such as:

- DEET
- Picaridin
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus

Mosquito repellents are available in lotions, creams, gels, sprays, and towelettes.

Read and follow the instructions on the label!

Take special care when using insect repellents on children. Make sure to choose a repellent that is appropriate for your child's age, and make sure to apply it correctly for the greatest effectiveness.

What about my pets?

Although most mosquitoes are not infected, horses bitten by an infected mosquito are at risk of contracting WNV. Those who become ill have a one in three chance of dying from the illness. To protect your horses from infection, contact your veterinarian about the WNV vaccine for horses. It is rare for any other pets to become ill from infection.

What should I do if I find a dead bird?

Certain wild birds in Oregon may be infected with WNV—in particular crows, ravens, jays, and magpies. It is important to contact Union County Vector Control at (541) 963-2974 if you find dead birds to help track WNV in Union County.

Some, but not all, dead birds may be collected and tested for WNV surveillance. If you are notified that a bird you've found is not going to be tested, wear thick gloves and double bag the bird before placing it in the trash.