

West Nile Virus

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is an arboviral disease of the Flaviviridae family. It is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period is between 2-14 days, usually 2-6; symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Swollen lymph glands
- Rash on the chest, stomach and back

The majority of people with WNV do not have symptoms

Symptoms can last from a few days to several weeks

In rare cases, illness can progress into more severe ailments leading to neuroinvasive diseases such as meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider.

Transmission (How it spreads)

- Through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito, usually the *Culex* mosquito

Diagnosis and Treatment

A doctor's examination is normally enough to diagnose illness. Your doctor can order tests to look for infection

There is no vaccine available to humans to prevent illness.

There is no specific treatment

Over the counter pain relievers can be used to reduce fever and other symptoms

DO NOT USE aspirin or NSAIDs (Ibuprofen and naproxen)

Prevention:

- Use of EPA-registered insect repellent (i.e.) Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Skin So Soft; the use of insect repellent while pregnant is safe and poses no adverse risk to the unborn child
- Mosquito nets
- Long sleeve shirts and long pants

Who is at Risk?

Anyone who spends time outdoors in areas where WNV is known to circulate

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474

West Nile Virus is a reportable disease in the state of Kansas. All cases must be reported
to KDHE via the Epi Hotline: 877-427-7317