

MOSQUITOES IN FALL

Mosquitoes are Still Active in the Fall!

West Nile Virus is a concern with mosquitoes, and the virus has been detected throughout the county this year. As of September, West Nile Virus has been identified in 34 mosquito samples through surveillance in Beaver County. To reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, it is important to use personal protection and remove any standing water that may lay for longer periods of time. The mosquito life cycle of larvae to adult mosquito is approximately 5 days, depending on temperature.

With all the rain we have been having lately, there are more places for mosquitoes to breed. Even though the temperatures are getting cooler, mosquitoes will still be out and about until the first killing frost.

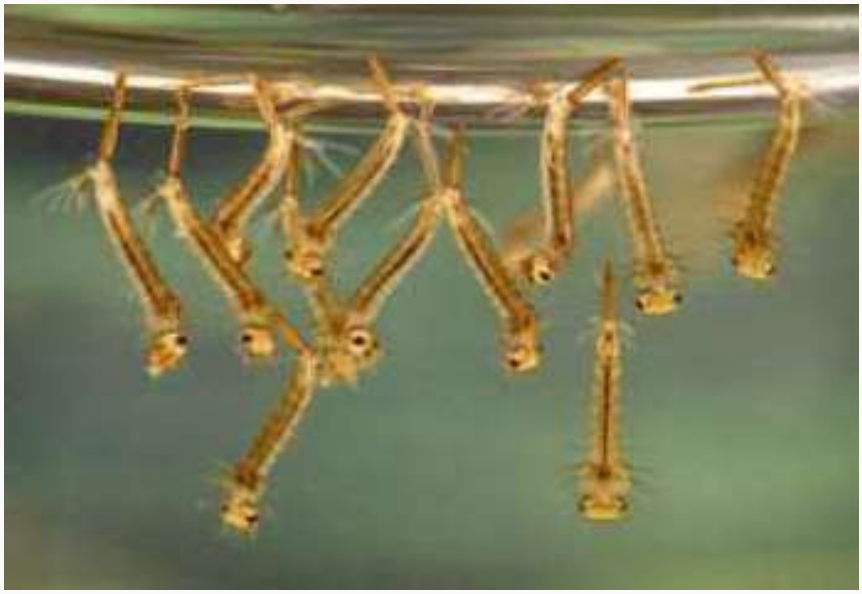




It is important to remove any stagnant water from yards that can lay for longer periods of time. We have had excessive rain lately, and with that, areas that can hold water. Areas such as low spots in yards, tire ruts, and low areas in wooded areas that create woodland pools are mosquito breeding habitat.



Mosquito larvae have 4 life stages called instars. 1st instar are the first to emerge and can be as small as ⅛ inch long. 2nd and 3rd instar each grow and molt until they reach the 4th instar. Larvae are sometimes referred to as "wrigglers" because they move and wriggle when they sense movement. The 4th instar is the largest larvae, approximately ½ inch in length. At this stage the larvae molt into pupae.



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If larvae are found in these areas and the areas cannot be removed, there are control products available at local retailers to reduce mosquito larvae and products for treatment of adult mosquitoes are also available for homeowners. Always read the label for proper usage of products.



Also, check and dump water from containers around the yard, such as lidless trash cans, buckets, outdoor kids' toys, and other containers that can hold stagnant water.

Personal protection is also important to reduce risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

- Wear EPA registered insect repellent during outdoor activities
- Wear long sleeved shirt and long pants
- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active during dawn and dusk



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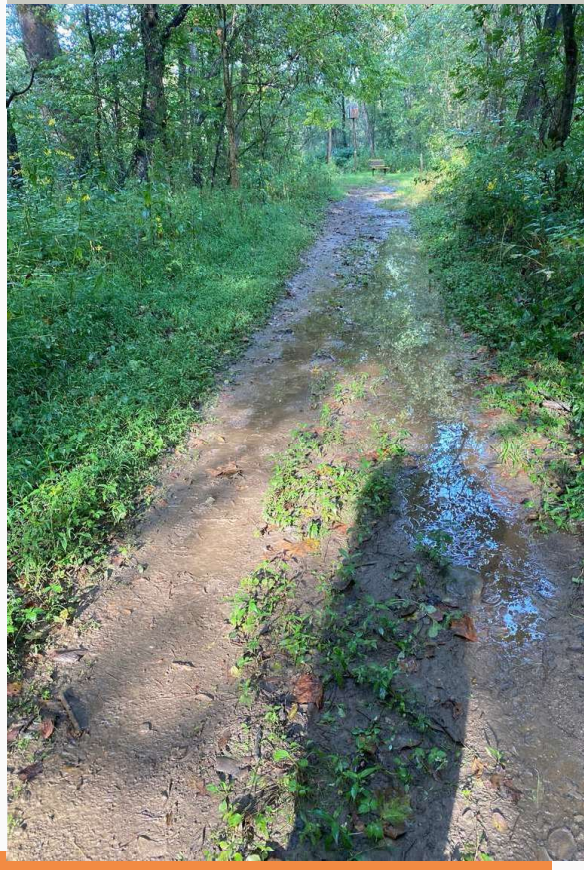
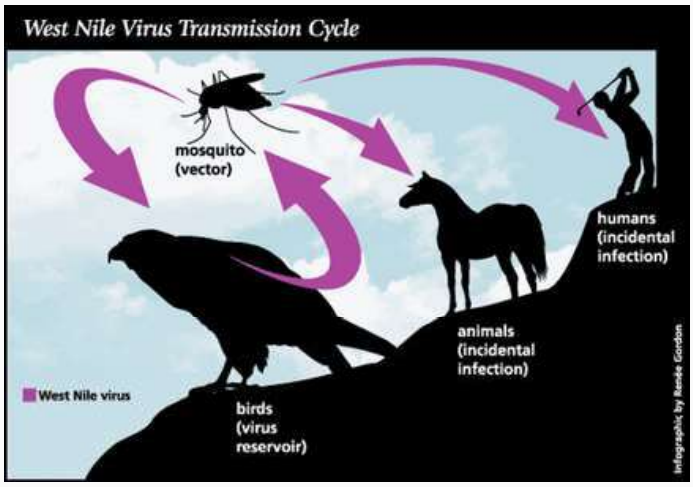




West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is a Flavivirus that is transmitted from infected birds to mosquitoes when the mosquito takes a bloodmeal from the infected bird. The virus is then transmitted to humans when that mosquito bites the human.

The virus can be circulated between birds and mosquitoes, but humans are considered “dead end hosts” which means the virus cannot amplify in the human’s bloodstream and the transmission cycle ends and cannot be transmitted person to person. In rare cases, WNV can be transmitted through blood transfusions.



West Nile Virus symptoms can range from no symptoms to encephalitis. Most people infected with West Nile Virus will either have no symptoms or 1 in 5 people can develop mild flu-like symptoms with fever, aches, headache, and fatigue with recover in a few days.

A small percentage, 1 in 150 people, can develop more serious conditions that can lead to encephalitis (swelling of the brain) with symptoms of tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and even death. People that are immunocompromised are at increased risk for WNV.

There is no treatment or vaccine for West Nile Virus in humans.

For more information on choosing insect repellent, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you

For more information, visit our website www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org

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