



FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY OF 2020 DETECTED IN MICHIGAN

June 10, 2020 – Summer is here and it's time to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. However, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is reminding residents that as the weather warms and summer temperatures rise, so do mosquito and mosquito-borne viruses and illnesses.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has recently confirmed the first 2020 West Nile virus activity in Michigan. The virus was detected in a captive hawk in Lapeer County. In 2019, 12 Michiganders and 20 animals and birds were infected with the virus.

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito that has received the virus from feeding on an infected bird. Most people who contract the virus have no symptoms, but some may become ill three to 15 days after the bite. Symptoms may include fever, confusion, muscle weakness and severe headache. More serious complications may also include neurological illnesses such as meningitis and encephalitis.

Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile Virus may breed near people's homes in storm drains, shallow ditches, retention ponds and unused pools. They will readily come indoors to feed if window and door screens are not maintained. The best way to prevent West Nile Virus or any other mosquito-borne illness is to prevent mosquito bites by reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and taking personal precautions to avoid them.

Personal precautions include:

- Using EPA registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone; follow the product label instructions and reapply as directed.
 - Don't use repellent on children under 2 months old. Instead dress the child in clothing that covers the arms and legs and covers cribs, strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting.
- Wearing shoes and socks, light colored long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors.
- Ensuring doors and windows have tight-fitting screens.
 - Repair or replace screens that have tears, gaps or openings.
- Using bed nets when sleeping outdoors or in areas with no window screens.
- Eliminating standing water sources that support mosquito breeding around your home, including bird baths, abandoned swimming pools, wading pools, old tires and any other object that may hold water.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases).

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