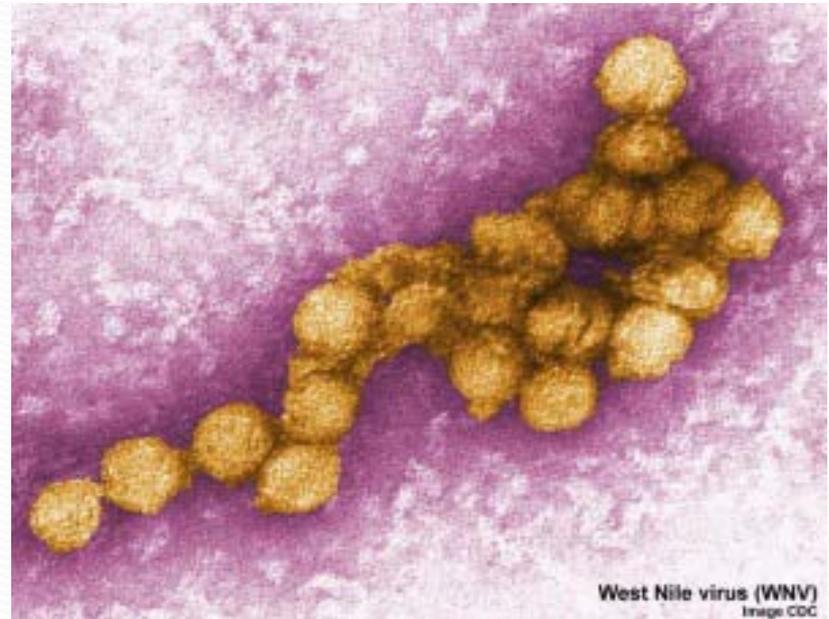


# West Nile Virus

## What is West Nile Virus (WNV) ?

- **West Nile virus** is an infection caused and spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus.
- West Nile virus infections generally occur during warm weather months when mosquitoes are active.



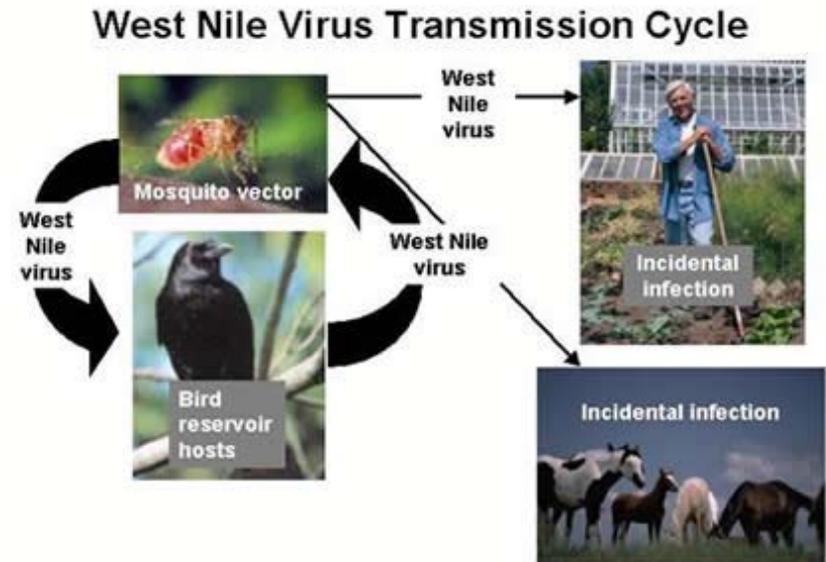
# How is West Nile Virus transmitted?

- **Infected Mosquitoes**

- Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds.
- Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

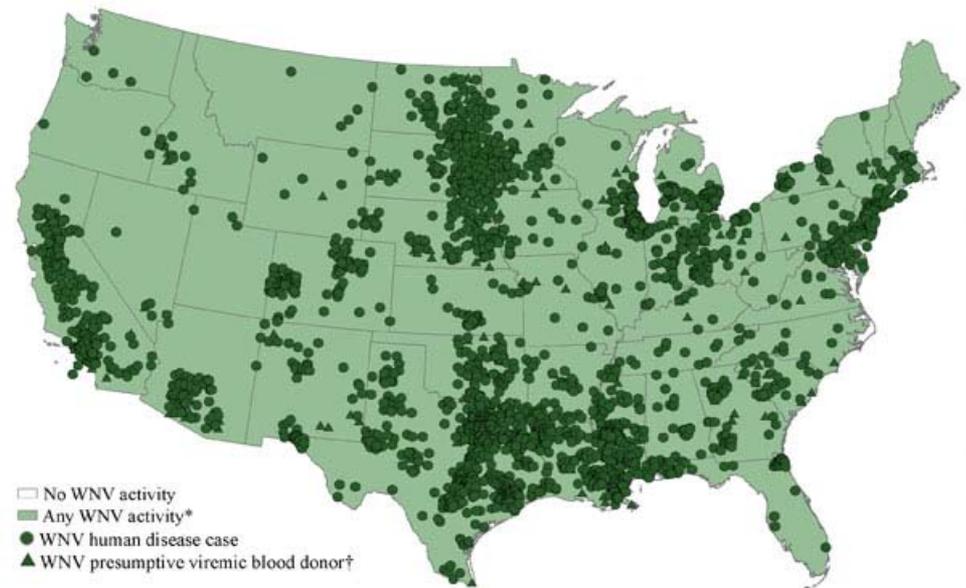
- **Transfusions, Transplants, and Mother-to-Child**

In a very small number of cases, WNV also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby.



# Who is susceptible to West Nile virus?

- Anyone can get infected with West Nile virus.
- Anyone who lives or works in an area where there are WNV-infected mosquitoes is at risk of WNV infection.
- Older persons are at an increased risk of severe disease from the virus.



CDC: West Nile virus (WNV) activity reported to ArboNE by state, United States, 2012 (as of October 2, 2012)

# What are the symptoms of WNV?

- **No Symptoms in Most People** (approximately 80%)



- **Milder Symptoms in Some People** (20 %)

- Symptoms usually occur 3 to 14 days after exposure.
- Fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach, and back.
- Symptoms can last for as short as a few days.



- **Serious Symptoms in a Few People** (less than 1%)

- High fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis.
- These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

## How is West Nile virus diagnosed?

- Blood test (testing of serum)
- Testing of Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)



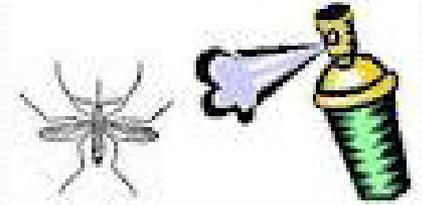
## How is West Nile virus treated?

- There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus.
- A physician may provide treatment to relieve the symptoms of the illness.
- In severe cases hospitalization may be required.



# How can WNV be prevented?

## \*Preventing mosquito bites



- Limiting the time spent outdoors at dawn and dusk or other times mosquitoes are active
- Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors
- Using insect repellents that contain DEET when outdoors

✓ What Else Should I Know?

### **If you find a dead bird:**

**Don't handle the body with your bare hands.**

