

# Stanislaus County West Nile Virus Info

For extensive web info  
on WNV go to  
[www.hsahealth.org](http://www.hsahealth.org)

## Things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community:

1. **Dusk and Dawn** – Stay indoors when mosquitoes are biting
2. **Dress** – Wear clothing that protects your skin from bites
3. **DEET** – Use mosquito repellent containing DEET
4. **Drain** – Empty any containers that hold standing water around your home.

## Stanislaus County Recorded Hotline (209) 558-8425.

This hotline has general information on how to protect yourself against WNV, how to report dead birds and helpful tips on WNV.

## For questions about mosquito control – Contact:

Turlock Mosquito Abatement District (209) 634-1234 or at [www.mosquitoturlock.com](http://www.mosquitoturlock.com)  
East Side Mosquito Abatement District (209) 522-4098

**If you find a dead bird, you need to report it** - To report dead birds call **1-877-WNV-BIRD** (1-877-968-2473) or by the web at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). (Detailed instructions on handling dead birds are below). If your dead bird is not picked up by 5 p.m. of the day you report it, you may throw it in the trash (after it has been bagged).

**How do you become infected?** – From the bite of an infected mosquito. It is not passed from person-to-person. Humans and animals infected with WNV are **NOT** contagious.

**Something to remember** - *The chance that any one person is going to become ill from a single mosquito bite remains low.* The risk of severe illness and death is highest for people over 50 years old, although people of all ages can become ill. Most people who are infected will have no symptoms and will never know they had the illness. 20% of people infected will have flu-like symptoms. Less than 1% will become severely ill and death is possible.

## How is West Nile virus treated?

Although there is no treatment for WNV infection itself, the person with severe disease often needs to be hospitalized. Care may involve intravenous (IV) fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections.

## If I think I have symptoms of West Nile virus, what should I do?

Contact your health care provider if you have concerns about your health. If you or your family members develop symptoms such as high fever, confusion, muscle weakness, and severe headaches, you should see your doctor immediately.

**For more medical/health questions** – Please contact your personal physician.

**Animal questions** – Please contact your personal veterinarian.

**Horses** –Horses are affected much more often than any other domestic animal and they need to be vaccinated. Horse owners should contact a veterinarian about timely vaccination. For horse related questions call: WNV Equine Information line **1-800-268-7378** (this line is from the California Department of Food and Agriculture).

## How to dispose of dead birds –

- Avoid touching the dead bird with your bare hands.
- Use gloves or multiple heavy-duty plastic bags to pick up the dead bird.
- Grasp the dead bird with your hand inside the plastic bags. Turn the plastic bags inside-out over the dead bird so the dead bird is now inside the plastic bags and your hands are on the outside of the plastic bags. Be sure that the beak or claws do not puncture the bags.
- Tightly seal the two bags.
- Dispose of the “double-bagged” bird carcass by placing it in a trash container. Ensure that the trash container is secure from children and animals while awaiting pickup from your refuse company.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS** thoroughly with warm water and soap after disposal. If you wore gloves to dispose of the dead bird, wash your gloved hands and then wash your bare hands thoroughly after you have removed the gloves.