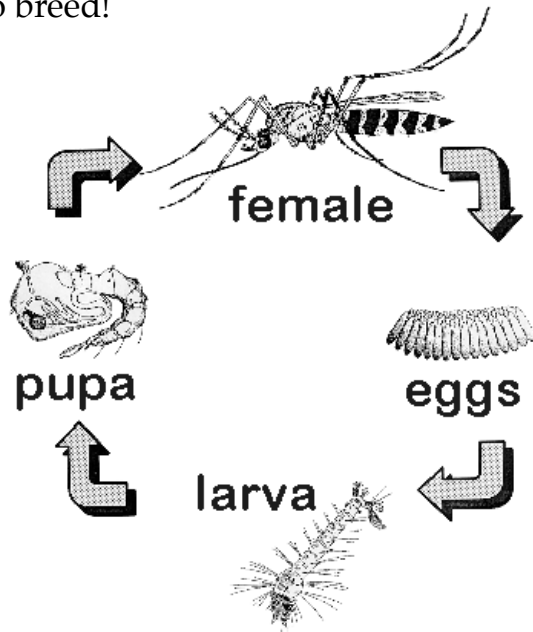


Mosquito Life Cycle

It's a fact: All mosquitos need water to breed!



Adult flying mosquitos frequently rest in grass, shrubbery or other foliage but they never develop there.

Some mosquitos lay their eggs in standing water where they hatch in a day or two. Other mosquitos lay their eggs in old tires, tin cans or other water-holding containers in which they may remain unhatched for weeks or months until they are covered with water. With both types of mosquitos the larvae grow quickly and turn into pupae. Soon the skin of the pupae splits open and out climbs another hungry mosquito.

What we are doing to protect you and your family

The Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department has prepared for several years for the approach of West Nile Virus. The West Nile Virus Work-group plan includes surveillance, public education and mosquito control.

The Health Department conducts mosquito spraying from 8 pm to midnight and again from 5 am to 8 am in areas where mosquito populations are heaviest.

For information on mosquito control contact the Environmental Health Division, 419-774-4520.

Websites for further information:

Ohio Department of Health
www.odh.state.oh.us
Use *Search* for West Nile Virus


Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department
www.richlandhealth.org/mosquito.html



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**Protect Yourself
and Your Family
from
West Nile Virus**



What is West Nile Virus?

Primarily a wild bird virus, West Nile virus is spread to humans by the bite of infected mosquito. When a mosquito bites a bird that carries the virus, the mosquito becomes infected. Once a mosquito is infected, it may transmit the virus to people or animals when it bites them.

Many birds can be infected, but crows and blue jays are most likely to die from the disease. Horses are also prone to West Nile virus infection. **People can not get West Nile virus from another person who has the disease.**

Why the concern?

West Nile Virus may cause encephalitis (brain inflammation) causing high fever and, in extreme cases, death.

However, fewer than one percent of people bitten by an infected mosquito will become severely ill.

Human symptoms are generally mild. Common symptoms of West Nile Virus are flu-like. These may include fever, muscle weakness, body aches, and skin rash with swollen lymph node. Only one of four people bitten by an infected mosquito will show any symptoms.

The risk for West Nile Virus is greatest in the very young, individuals with a compromised immune system and elderly people.

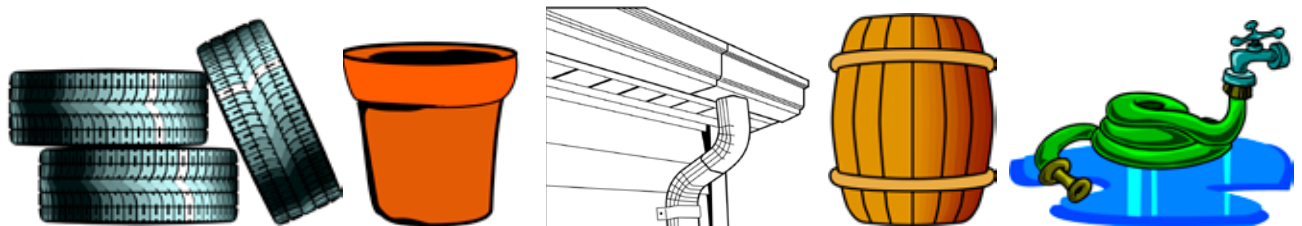
Two Step Process to Protect Yourself and Your Family:

(1) PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Use mosquito repellents and follow label directions and precautions closely:
 - For adults it is recommended that no more than 30% active ingredient (such as DEET) be used.
 - For children no more than 10% active ingredient and never on children less than three years old.
 - Do not apply directly to children but apply to your own hands and then put it on the children, avoiding eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are likely to be biting.
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long sleeve shirts and long pants. Light colors are less attractive to mosquitoes.
- Make sure window and door screens are “bug tight.”
- Replace your outdoor lights with yellow “bug” lights.

(2) MOSQUITO CONTROL

- Empty standing water in old tires, cemetery urns, buckets, plastic covers, toys, or any other container where “wigglers” can live.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted plant trays at least once a week if not more often.
- Drain or fill temporary pools with dirt.
- Keep swimming pools treated and circulating and rain gutters unclogged.



Empty or eliminate any item around the house that could pool water, including leaky hoses.