

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the U.S. It is known to infect birds, horses and other animals, and is spread to humans mainly through the bite of infected mosquitoes, and rarely through blood transfusion, organ transplant and from mother to child during pregnancy. Transmission from person to person or animals to humans is not evident. West Nile Virus disease is common in the mosquito season (Summer and Fall).

The incubation period for WNV is 2-14 days. Most infected individuals (80%) do not get sick, and 20% develop mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, skin rashes, and swollen lymph nodes. However about 1 in 150 infected persons develop serious complications like encephalitis and death.

There is no specific treatment or vaccination for WNV. Prevention consists of the use of insect repellents, wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, treating clothing and gear with permethrin, as well as mosquito control indoors and outdoors.

For questions and more information, please contact the Brazos County Health District at **979-361-4440**

Further information on West Nile Virus Disease:

DSHS: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/arboviral/westnile/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention/index.html>