



Mosquitos are the carriers of the West Nile Virus. Humans can contract this disease through the bite of an infected mosquito.

**BUG
WEEK
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Mosquito-Borne West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is an illness spread through mosquito bites. Travelers who visit Africa, Europe, the Middle East, west and central Asia, and North America are at risk of contracting WNV. Individuals over the age of 50 are high risk for experiencing a severe case of WNV.

How WNV is Transmitted

In rare cases, WNV be spread through blood transfusions, transplants, and during breastfeeding.

Signs & Symptoms

Around 80% of people who are infected with WNV feel no symptoms! Those who do get sick usually experience symptoms for a few days to a few weeks. Symptoms include:

- **Fever**
- **Headache**
- **Nausea**
- **Vomiting**

In rare cases, individuals can experience serious symptoms, which include:

- **Muscle weakness**
- **Vision loss**
- **Paralysis**

WNV is not contagious.

Prevention

There is no vaccine to prevent or medication to treat WNV. Travelers should avoid mosquito bites by:

When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. (Always follow the product label and instructions).

If Bitten

Avoid scratching the bite. Apply hydrocortisone cream to reduce itching.

Schedule an appointment with your health care provider if you start experiencing any symptoms, especially a fever.

Donating Blood? Here's What You Need to Know!

Each donor is screened for risk of transmissible disease by questionnaire, and each unit of blood donated in the U.S. is routinely screened for various infectious disease pathogens using FDA approved assays.

Test Used to Screen Donated Blood

Infectious Disease Pathogen	West Nile Virus (WNV)
Laboratory Test Used	Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAT) for ZikV.
Frequency of Test	Every donation