

MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN RENO COUNTY

This summer Reno County Health Department staff has been actively working with Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Biological Survey to trap and monitor the mosquito population across the county. Trapped mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus across Reno County. Individuals can help prevent the spread of West Nile virus and other diseases spread by mosquitoes by following the three Ds:

Drain

- Empty standing water from flowerpots, buckets and barrels
- Replace water in pet dishes and birdbaths weekly
- Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out
- Clean rain gutters for good drainage
- Keep children's wading pools empty when not being used

Dress

- Wear long pants and long sleeves
- Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best

Defend

- Use effective repellants with Deet or other EPA-approved products
- Follow label instructions
- Apply larvacide dunks to standing water that cannot be drained
(can be purchased at area garden stores)

West Nile virus is not contagious person to person. Most people with West Nile virus infection do not have symptoms. About 20 percent of people infected have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, nausea and vomiting. Less than 1 percent develop severe illness that may require hospitalization. Severe symptoms include neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors, muscle weakness, numbness, paralysis and even coma or death. If you develop severe symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

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