

**Don't Get Bugged
Get the Information!!**

**Gaston County Health
Department
24 Hour West Nile Virus
Hotline
(704) 853-5205**

**Gaston County Health
Department
Environmental Health Division
(704) 853-5200**

**Gaston County Health
Department Web Site
www.co.gaston.nc.us/healthdept/**

**North Carolina
Public Health
Pest Management Section
(919) 733-6407
www.deh.enr.state.nc.us**

**Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov**

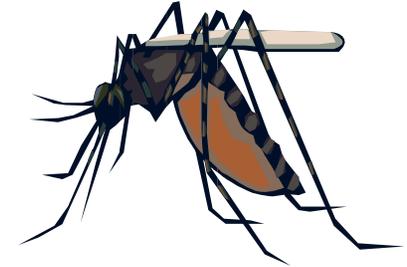
**American Mosquito Control
Association (AMCA)
www.mosquito.org**



This brochure was based on information provided by the North Carolina Public Health Pest Management Section and the Washoe District Health Department Vector-Borne Diseases Program.

*Gaston County Health Department
991 West Hudson Blvd.
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
www.co.gaston.nc.us/healthdept/
Our health...Our future*

Don't Get Bugged by Mosquitoes



***The Facts About
West Nile Virus***

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Our health...Our future

**West Nile Virus Hotline
(704) 853-5205**

Glad You Asked!!

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a virus spread by mosquitoes. Although rare, it has been transmitted through blood transfusions. An infected person cannot pass it on to another person. Dogs and cats can be infected with WNV but it rarely occurs.

How do people get the West Nile Virus (WNV)?

People can get the virus after being bitten by a mosquito that carries WNV. You cannot get the virus from touching dead or infected birds.

What happens if you become infected?

Most people don't show symptoms or have mild symptoms. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, and swollen lymph glands. People who experience more severe cases can have headaches, high fevers, stiff necks, disorientation, and a brain infection called encephalitis. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 15 days.

Do people die from West Nile Virus?

Most healthy people who are infected with WNV rarely show symptoms. However, people over age 50, senior citizens and those with weak immune systems are at risk for severe illness and death from West Nile Virus.

Is there any treatment?

No. There is no cure for WNV and there is no vaccine. Anyone experiencing symptoms should see a doctor.



The **BUZZ** on Protecting Against Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

- Mosquitoes are very active at sunrise and sunset. Try to restrict outdoor activity during this time of day.
- Wear long pants and shirts.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET- (30% or less for adults and 10% or less for children over two). **Follow label directions.**
- Ask your doctor about using repellent on children under two years old.

REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES

- Empty any containers around your yard that hold water. Old tires, tin cans, buckets...anywhere water collects is a place mosquitoes can breed.
- Change water in your pet bowls and bird baths on a regular basis.
- Remove water collection dishes from under potted plants.
- Cover unused swimming pools.
- Clean rain gutters and fix any outdoor faucets or plumbing that may leak.
- Buy mosquito dunks at your local home improvement store. Use in a standing water area that can't be drained.



**Call the Gaston County Health Department
24 hour West Nile Virus Hotline for recorded
information.**

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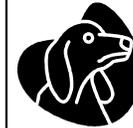
Don't Horse Around with West Nile Virus!

Horses that become infected with West Nile Virus can develop encephalitis, which causes swelling on the brain. Symptoms include fever, staggering, weakness and paralysis.



West Nile Virus in horses is easy to prevent.

There is a vaccine available. If you're a horse owner, ask your vet about the WNV vaccine! **West Nile Virus is fatal in up to 40% of horses that are not vaccinated.**



There is NO West Nile Virus vaccine for dogs and cats

West Nile Virus...It's Here to Stay

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services no longer tests birds for West Nile Virus. The Gaston County Health Department will not collect dead birds. Please help us track this disease by calling the Health Department's Environmental Health Division if any of the birds listed below are on your property and appear to be dead.

(704) 853-5200

Blue Jays

Cardinals

Crows

Hawks

Owls