

Transmitting West Nile Virus



- **West Nile Virus is transmitted from the bite of the infected mosquito.**
- **Also transmitted through blood and organ transfusion**

WHO IS AT GREATEST RISK?

People over the age of 50
People with chronic underlying diseases



HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Spray exposed skin or clothing with an insect repellent containing DEET (the higher the concentration, the better and longer it lasts)
- Wear long-sleeves shirts and pants outdoors whenever possible

HEALTH INFORMATION

- Most people have no symptoms
- 20 –30% have mild symptoms
- 1 in 150 – develop encephalitis or meningitis
- Humans have virus in blood within 24 hours

MILD SYMPTOMS OF WEST NILE FEVER

- Milder disease, lasting around 3 to 6 days
- Sudden onset of fever, accompanied by:
 - Tiredness
 - Loss of appetite
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Eye pain
 - Headache
 - Muscle ache
 - Rash
 - Swollen lymph nodes



SEVERE SYMPTOMS OF WEST NILE ENCEPHALITIS



- Severe neurological disease, may last weeks to months
 - Fever
 - Weakness
 - Change in mental status
 - Myelitis
 - Seizures
 - Rash
- May result in death

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

- Mild Symptoms – Contact private physician
- Severe Symptoms – Seek immediate medical attention

WHERE DO I GO TO GET TESTED

- Go to your primary care physician