



Clark County Health Department

Administrative Offices at 529 East Home Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503

937-390-5600 | clarkhealthohio.gov | info@clarkhealthohio.gov

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HEALTH ALERT: Clark County Health Department is investigating a human case of West Nile Virus

9/30/26

Clark County Health Department (CCHD) is investigating the season's first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first case reported in Clark County since 2021. Healthcare providers are asked to consider WNV for patients presenting with mosquito exposure and appropriate symptoms. Additionally, it is vital for all partners to stress the importance of taking precautions to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

Symptoms: Most people who become infected with WNV do not have any symptoms. About one in five people who become infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. WNV can lead to severe fever, encephalitis or meningitis.

Clinical Criteria: A clinically compatible case of arboviral disease is defined as follows:

- **Neuroinvasive disease:**
 - Meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or other acute signs of central or peripheral neurologic dysfunction, as documented by a physician, and
 - Absence of a more likely clinical explanation. Other clinically compatible symptoms of arbovirus disease include: headache, myalgia, rash, arthralgia, vertigo, vomiting, paresis and/or nuchal rigidity.
- **Non-neuroinvasive disease:**
 - Fever (chills) as reported by the patient or a healthcare provider, and
 - Absence of neuroinvasive disease, and
 - Absence of a more likely clinical explanation. Other clinically compatible symptoms of arbovirus disease include: headache, myalgia, rash, arthralgia, vertigo, vomiting, paresis and/or nuchal rigidity.

Period of Communicability: Humans are dead-end hosts for the virus (i.e., they do not circulate sufficient numbers of the virus in the blood stream to infect a mosquito). The disease cannot be spread from person to person.

Incubation Period: 2 to 14 days, usually 2 to 6 days. In immunocompromised persons, the incubation can be as long as 21 days.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis:

- Isolation of virus from, or demonstration of specific viral antigen or nucleic acid in, tissue, blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or other body fluid or
- Four-fold or greater change in virus-specific quantitative antibody titers in paired sera or
- Virus-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies in serum with confirmatory virus-specific neutralizing antibodies in the same or a later specimen or
- Virus-specific IgM antibodies in CSF or serum.

Prevention

Individuals should take reasonable precautions to avoid mosquito bites and eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites near or surrounding their homes.



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Here are some tips to avoid mosquito bites:

- If you are outdoors between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing, which is less attractive to mosquitoes.
- Wear permethrin treated clothing to repel and kill mosquitoes.
- Use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent and follow the label directions for usage.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Here are some tips to eliminate mosquito breeding sites around your home:

- Eliminate standing water.
- Empty or remove all types of water-holding containers, such as buckets, barrels, tires, unused flowerpots and bird baths. Even a small amount of water in a small lid can be enough to breed mosquitoes.
- Make sure all roof gutters are clean and draining properly.
- Keep children's wading pools empty and placed on their sides when not being used.
- Change water in pet dishes regularly.

Resources:

- Learn more about mosquitoes and WNV on the ODH website at <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/wnv>.
- For more information about interpreting arboviral lab results, case definition and classification, see the Ohio Infectious Disease Control Manual at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-wnv>.

If you are receiving this health message via fax, please visit the CCHD website (http://ccchd.com/?page_id=870) or follow the QR code below to view a digital copy with clickable links. If you wish to receive health alerts electronically in the future, please contact asauter@clarkhealthohio.gov.

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