



Health & Community Services Department

Promoting Health For All

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HEALTH ADVISORY

Disease Surveillance / Disease Control / Epidemiology Facsimile Number: 269 373-5060

Deliver To:	The person responsible for distributing time-sensitive health information		
Distribution:	PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS		
From:	Disease Surveillance (telephone 269-373-5267)	Date	09/19/2016
Re:	West Nile Virus	# Pages	1

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories has confirmed the first human West Nile virus (WNV) case for 2016 in a resident of Kalamazoo County. Hot, dry summers are ideal for the mosquito that transmits WNV. Residents are reminded to take precautions throughout the summer and fall months in Michigan. They should avoid mosquito bites and reduce standing water sources where possible such as old tires, bird baths, buckets, etc.

Most people bitten by a WNV-infected mosquito show no symptoms. However, some become sick 3-15 days after exposure. Young children and adults over age 50 are most susceptible to severe WNV symptoms. In some cases, WNV can lead to encephalitis or meningitis and death. Approximately one in five infected persons will have mild illness with fever. About one in 150 infected people will become severely ill. The mosquito that transmits WNV is the Culex species mosquito, which is common in Michigan. This mosquito thrives in urban areas, particularly in places with standing water.

For more information about WNV in Michigan, <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-25805---,00.html> or <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>.

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