

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has had a nuisance mosquito control program for over 35 years. The goal of this program is to reduce mosquito populations to a tolerable level for residents and visitors to the area.

### How are mosquitoes controlled?

Nuisance mosquitoes are controlled with the use of an approved biological control agent called *Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis* (*Bti*). This product is safe for humans, animals, other insects and even adult mosquitoes!

*Bti* is applied to standing water where larval mosquitoes are present either by hand or with the use of a backpack blower.



### What do mosquito larvae look like?

Mosquito larvae or wigglers live in stagnant water in marshes, ditches, fields, catch basins and in any water holding containers around the home. They attach to the surface of the water to breathe but dive in a flipping swimming motion when they sense danger.



### Contact information

Regional District of  
Central Okanagan

1450 KLO Road  
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4  
Phone: 250.763.4918  
Fax: 250.763.0606

Web: [regionaldistrict.com/mosquitoes](http://regionaldistrict.com/mosquitoes)

Interior Health Authority

WNV Information and Dead  
Bird Reporting Line  
1.866.300.0520

To report a mosquito problem or a potential larval development site on public lands, please



Duka Environmental Services Ltd.  
Toll-Free: 1.800.681.3472  
Email: [duka@telus.net](mailto:duka@telus.net)  
[www.duka.consulting](http://www.duka.consulting)



## Mosquito Control and the West Nile Virus in the Regional District of Central Okanagan



Regional District of Central Okanagan



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# West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus (WNV) has previously been reported in the Central Okanagan Regional District and all residents should learn the signs and symptoms of the illness and how to reduce the risk.

West Nile Virus is a disease of birds which is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes get the virus from infected birds and then the next time they bite, they pass the virus on. Occasionally, mosquitoes will spread this virus to other, non-bird, hosts such as humans and horses. Fortunately, humans and horses cannot pass on the virus to others once infected.

## Who is at risk?

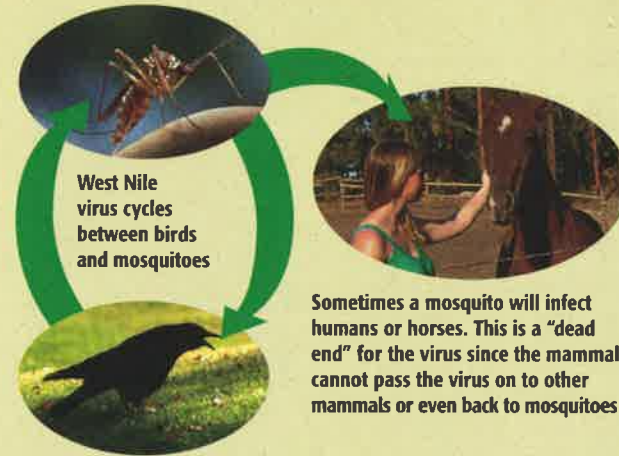
The hot dry Okanagan Valley has abundant habitat for the species of mosquitoes that

transmit the WNV. Therefore, residents and visitors to the Okanagan should take precautions.

## Signs and symptoms

Approximately 20% of individuals infected with the virus will develop severe flu-like symptoms including headache, joint pain, and fever which can last from a few days to many months. In rare cases, WNV can cause life-threatening meningitis or encephalitis with symptoms of high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, paralysis over even death. There is no vaccine or cure for WNV.

## Transmission Cycle



**ALERT!** WNV is a serious threat to horses and as many as 40% of horses that are infected will die. However, there is a vaccine available for horses and concerned horse owners should consult their veterinarian.

## Protect yourself

- Wear light coloured clothing as mosquitoes are attracted to darker colours.
- At dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, wear long sleeved shirts and long pants made of tightly woven materials.
- Wear a mosquito repellent containing DEET (up to 30% for adults and up to 7% for children over 6 months old) or Lemon Eucalyptus Oil.
- Ensure that the screens on your homes and porches are in good repair as mosquitoes can find even the tiniest holes.
- Do not depend on bug zappers, mosquito buzzers, or repellents that do not contain DEET or Lemon Eucalyptus Oil.



## Eliminate Larval Development Sites

As little as a cupful of standing water can produce hundreds of mosquito larvae. Be sure gutters are draining well and change water in bird baths, children's' wading pools and animal water containers at least once per week. Install a pump and fountain in ornamental ponds. Keep the surface of your pool cover clear of water and debris.



## What is the Regional District of Central Okanagan Doing?

With funding from the British Columbia WNV Risk Reduction Initiative, the RDCO is conducting mosquito larval control in upwards of 200 natural and man-made larval development sites. In addition, staff and contractors are treating mosquito larvae with the

biological larvicide, *Bacillus sphaericus*, in over 11,000 catch basins in Lake Country, Kelowna, West Kelowna and Peachland. Finally, the RDCO is trapping and identifying mosquitoes to determine what species are present in different areas of the District and in what numbers.

