

## ~ West Nile Virus (WNV): Frequently Asked Questions ~

### **What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?**

[West Nile Virus \(WNV\)](#) is a mosquito-borne virus. Mosquitoes acquire WNV from biting birds infected with the virus and then pass it on to other birds and mammals. While humans and horses can be infected by the virus, there is no documentation that once infected they will spread WNV.

For more information on WNV please visit the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) website.

For information on local WNV outbreaks in humans and animals, visit the Washington State Department of Health [website](#).

### **How can I protect myself and birds from WNV?**

The best way to decrease the threat of WNV is to control and prevent your exposure to mosquitoes.

1. Remove old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys and other containers that can hold water and serve as a mosquito reservoir.
2. Change birdbaths, fountains, wading pools and animal troughs weekly.
3. Protect yourself by wearing long sleeved shirts, and long pants when in mosquito infected areas. Also consider wearing [mosquito repellent](#).

### **What do I do if I suspect my bird has died from WNV?**

If you suspect your bird has died from WNV contact your private veterinarian, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Avian Health Program at **1-800-606-3056** or your local health department.