

**FIGHT
THE BITE!**

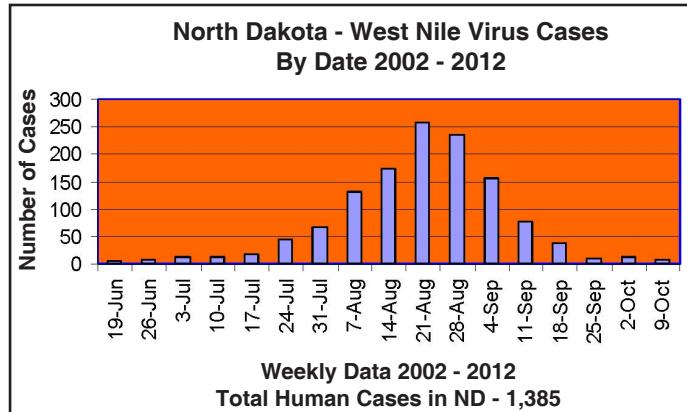
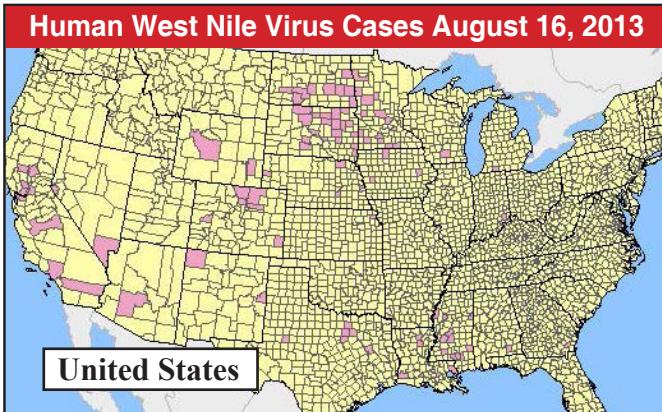
GRAND FORKS MOSQUITO CONTROL



WEST NILE VIRUS RISK FACTORS

West Nile virus (WNV) is an infection transmitted by mosquitoes. The mosquito most common for transmitting this virus is one that is widespread throughout the Grand Forks region. This mosquito does not discriminate. People of all ages are susceptible to WNV infection, but the elderly are at higher risk for developing the more severe form of this disease (neuroinvasive illness). Children infected with WNV generally show no symptoms or may have a mild fever.

Ideal conditions for mosquito breeding and WNV are a wet spring followed by a hot dry summer. That pretty much describes our season in the Grand Forks region this year and WNV arrived early. The Grand Forks Health Department identified WNV in a bird on July 15th and we continue to identify its presence in mosquitoes collected throughout the community. This is a preventable disease and recognizing the risk factors can help reduce your chances of being infected.



Risk factors for West Nile virus:

- Time of year – The majority of WNV cases occur from July – September.
- Geographic region – The Dakotas have reported some of the highest cases per capita in the United States.
- Time spent outdoors not wearing protective clothing and mosquito repellent – If you work or spend a lot of time outdoors (golfing, gardening, hunting, etc.), you're at a higher risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.
- Proximity – If you live in an area where WNV has already been identified or near mosquito larval habitat.
- If you have a weakened immune system.

The best way to prevent West Nile virus infection is to avoid mosquito bites.

- Use mosquito-repellent products containing DEET.
- Wear long sleeves and pants.
- Eliminate any standing water from your property, such as trash bins, plant saucers, rain gutters, buckets, etc.

For information about West Nile Virus and the Grand Forks mosquito control program visit our website at www.gfmsoquito.com or call the Information Line at **701-787-8144**