



# Yavapai County Community Health Services

Our Mission: "Yavapai County Community Health Services will provide leadership, information, and services that contribute to improving the health and well-being of Yavapai County residents."



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Health Advisory

For Immediate Release  
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### West Nile Virus Found in Camp Verde

Thanks to a recent call to Yavapai County Community Health Services (YCCHS) by an alert resident, a large body of standing water was found to be full of mosquito larvae. Adult mosquitoes in the area were trapped and tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). YCCHS staff has notified the owner of the property and are working to get the situation resolved. The standing water was due to improper irrigation techniques and/or faulty ditch gates. The Health Department suggests not allowing water to sit for more than three days, even when irrigating, to prevent the breeding of mosquitos and also recommends that residents with horses get them vaccinated against WNV.

West Nile Virus can spread to humans and animals through bites from mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. The incubation period is 3 to 14 days with symptoms lasting 3 to 6 days. Most people infected with West Nile Virus will feel no symptoms. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 20 percent will feel mild, flu-like symptoms that may include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches
- Swollen glands
- Muscle weakness

A small percentage of people infected with West Nile virus will experience severe symptoms. Every year people in Arizona die from infection. Usually, but not always, it hits the very young or elderly, or those with compromised immune systems, the hardest. It is important to remember that there are measures each person can take to prevent infection:

- Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around your home or business by removing standing water in potted plants, tires, and other containers.
- When standing water can't be drained or dumped, use safe mosquito larvicides such as "mosquito dunks", which are commonly available at feed stores and garden centers.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of the home.
- Avoid outdoor exposure between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, but keep in mind some mosquito species are daytime biters.
- When outdoors, wear long sleeves and long pants to prevent mosquito bites.
- When outdoors wear a mosquito repellent containing DEET (follow label instructions, especially for use on children). All strengths of DEET will repel mosquitoes, but higher concentrations will last longer.
- Report dead birds or problems with standing water by calling Yavapai County Community Health Services at (928)771-3149.

Brian Supalla says, "Each year we find mosquito problems on private property -- neglected swimming pools, old boats full of water, horse troughs, forgotten buckets. Anywhere water

stands more than three days can be a breeding site. Even the lid of a jar.” While no community can eliminate mosquitoes, Supalla says it can be controlled when people work together. “We need every neighborhood involved. We hope to see folks pulling together to help those who aren’t able to mosquito-proof their property”.

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For more information about this event or any of the Yavapai County Community Health Services, please contact David McAtee at 928-442-5509 or email [David.McAtee@co.yavapai.az.us](mailto:David.McAtee@co.yavapai.az.us).  
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