

A MESSAGE FROM
Dan Heerding, Emergency Manager
Sandoval County Fire and Rescue



Sandoval County Residents,

Please know that the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) confirmed today, July 28, 2023 that two cases of human infection of the West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported in the state. One patient, now hospitalized, lives in Sandoval County.

This virus spreads through mosquito bites, and while there is no vaccine for WNV, you can take several measures to protect yourself and loved ones. Please remember that mosquitoes bite during the day and night. Below is information compiled both from the NMDOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help you mitigate your chance of infection.

- Use insect repellent
 - Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#) with one of these active ingredients: DEET, Picardin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the US), IR3535, OLE (Oil of lemon eucalyptus), PMD (para-methane-diol), and 2-undecanone. NOTE: According to the CDC, when used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Treat clothing and gear with insect repellent
- Take steps to control mosquitoes indoors and outdoors

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WEST NILE FEVER AND WEST NILE VIRUS?

According to the CDC, symptoms of the milder form of illness, *West Nile fever*, can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. Individuals with West Nile fever typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for weeks to months. Symptoms of *West Nile* neuroinvasive disease can include those of *West Nile fever* plus neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

Here is a NMDOH fact sheet on the West Nile Virus. [View PDF.](#)

Special Notice to Horse Owners: It is important to vaccinate your animals to protect them from West Nile virus and Western Equine Encephalitis, which is also carried by mosquitoes.

If you have any concerns, please reach out to:

[NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH \(NMDOH\)](#)
[Reporting & Surveillance Hotline](#)

[505-827-0006 Phone](#) • [505-827-0013 Fax](#)

[An infectious disease epidemiologist is available 24/7/365 to answer questions and accept notifiable condition reports.](#)