



Fight The Bite

Mississippi Summer Camps

The Mississippi Department of Health urges all Mississippians to avoid mosquito bites whenever possible. The risk of a healthy person getting West Nile virus from a mosquito bite is very low, but all Mississippians are encouraged to protect themselves.

Everyone should know. . .

- West Nile virus is transmitted *primarily* through the bite of an infected mosquito. However, there have been isolated cases occurring in blood transfusion and organ donation recipients; from mother to baby during pregnancy; and through breast milk. People cannot become infected through ordinary contact with an infected bird, horse, or human.
- No vaccine exists to protect humans against West Nile virus. Individuals must personally ***Fight The Bite***.

A Message For Summer Camp Participants

- People may become infected if they are bitten by mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus.
- Avoid mosquitoes whenever possible.
- Early morning, near dusk, and after dark activities may pose a potential risk for campers. These are the times when mosquitoes are most likely to feed.
- Take personal protective measures, especially between dusk and dawn.
- Use mosquito repellent with DEET (concentrations up to 30 percent for adults and 10 percent or less for children over two years old, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics).
- According to the CDC, most guidelines cite that it is acceptable to use repellents containing DEET on children two years to 12 years of age. Other experts suggest that it is acceptable to apply repellent with low concentrations of DEET to infants over two months old. For children less than two years old, parents should consult their pediatrician.
- Do not allow young children to apply repellents to themselves; apply repellent to your own hands and then put it on the child. Avoid children's eyes and mouth and use it sparingly around their ears.
- Do not apply repellent to children's hands. (Children tend to put their hands in their mouths.)
- Do not apply repellent to skin under clothing.
- Wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothing with socks and shoes outdoors when practical.
- Spray **clothing** with repellents containing **permethrin** since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Do not apply repellents containing **permethrin** directly to exposed skin (for clothing, fabrics only).

WHEN USING REPELLENTS, ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LABEL DIRECTIONS AND KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF SMALL CHILDREN (MAY BE TOXIC IF INGESTED).

POISON CONTROL: 1-800-222-1222

A Message Regarding Camping Facilities (cabins, tents, etc.):

- If sleeping outdoors, use mosquito netting sprayed with repellent containing **permethrin**.
- Install or repair window and door screens on cabins/campers, so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- Make sure that tents made of fabric are in good repair with no holes and that screens are kept closed.

A Message For Summer Campers/ Camp Directors:

- Eliminate standing, stagnant water — a prime breeding ground for mosquitoes — from around the campsite.
- The Internet provides instant access to volumes of information about West Nile virus.
- You can find the latest Mississippi facts about West Nile virus at www.HealthyMS.com.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website also offers information: www.cdc.gov.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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