



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Sarah Seifert

Communication Specialist

[sarah.seifert@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:sarah.seifert@eauclairecounty.gov)

715-559-9602

## Human case of West Nile Virus reported in Eau Claire County

**Eau Claire, October 1, 2025** – A human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been confirmed in Eau Claire County. It is the first confirmed human case of WNV in the county this year. The Health Department is urging residents to continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

The most recent human case of WNV in Eau Claire County was in 2024. WNV has been detected in other parts of the state so far this year, including in neighboring counties. The illness has been found in humans, mosquitoes, and animals.

People get WNV by being bitten by an infected mosquito. The virus doesn't spread person to person. Mosquitos get the virus by feeding on infected birds.

Human cases of WNV are most common in Wisconsin in the months of August and September. However, anytime mosquitoes are active, there's a risk of getting WNV and other mosquito-borne illnesses.

Try to prevent mosquito bites throughout the fall until mosquitoes are no longer active – typically after a hard frost (temperatures below 28 degrees for at least four consecutive hours).

Most people (80%) who are infected with WNV don't get sick. People who do get sick usually have mild symptoms like fever, headache, muscle ache, rash, and fatigue. However, some people (less than 1%) who get sick with WNV get seriously ill and may have symptoms like high fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, disorientation, mental confusion, tremors, confusion, paralysis, and coma. Older adults and people with compromised immune systems have a higher risk of developing serious illness that can be fatal. If you belong to one of those groups and suspect you may be sick with WNV, it's important you talk to a health care provider.

You can reduce your risk of WNV by preventing bites and stopping mosquitoes from breeding in your yard or outdoor spaces. We recommend:

- Using insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 on exposed skin and clothing.
- Before going outside, treat your clothing with permethrin (don't apply permethrin directly on your skin).

- Think about rescheduling outdoor activities that happen in the evening or early morning, when mosquitoes that spread WNV are most active.
- Wear a loose-fitting long-sleeved top and long pants when you're outside.

### **Mosquito-proofing your home**

- Remove standing water from around your yard.
  - Water can collect in tin cans, plastic containers, flowerpots, discarded tires, roof gutters, and downspouts.
  - When you're not using wheelbarrows, kiddie pools, buckets, and canoes and kayaks, turn them upside down.
  - Change water in bird baths and pet dishes at least every three days.
  - Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs. Drain water from pool covers.
- Make sure window and door screens are intact and tightly fitted to stop mosquitoes from getting into your home.
- Trim or mow tall grass, weeds, and vines. Mosquitoes use these spots to rest during hot daylight hours.

Want to keep up to date on mosquito- and tick-borne diseases, respiratory virus trends, and more in our county? Visit the Health Department's [communicable disease dashboard](#) for real-time updates.

###