

West Nile Virus in Algoma: Prevention tips and 2015 summary



Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma
July 2016

Quick facts

- West Nile virus is acquired from a bite by infected mosquitoes and can result in minor illness, or very rarely severe nervous system effects.
- West Nile virus **has been found in the bird population** in the District of Algoma **since 2008**.
- **2%** of the mosquitoes trapped in 2015 were found to be the main type of mosquito that would carry the West Nile Virus.
- **No** infected mosquitoes were found in 2015.
- **Less than 5** confirmed cases of West Nile virus have been reported in the District of Algoma since 2006, compared to **547** total in Ontario.¹
- **28** cases of West Nile virus were reported in Ontario in 2015.¹

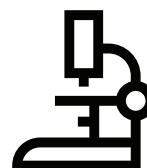
Testing and Trapping in 2015



16 sites across Algoma



70 traps collected



2,635 mosquitoes examined

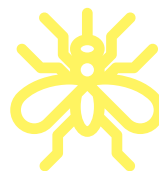
Test results for 2015



2635 mosquitoes
examined



70% - can not transmit
West Nile virus

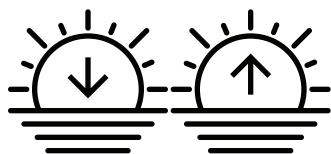


28% - very low risk of
carrying West Nile virus

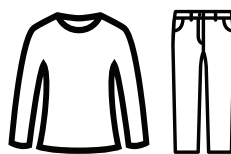


2% - highest risk of
carrying West Nile virus

Lower your risk by:



Limit time outdoors
from dusk to dawn



Wear light coloured,
protective clothing



Use mosquito repellent
with "DEET"

Additional ways:

- Reduce mosquito breeding sites, such as: poorly draining ditches, old unused swimming pools, discarded tires and open outdoor containers.
- Reduce time spent unprotected outdoors around natural breeding sites, such as: wetlands, forest meadows, grass filled depressions and anywhere water collects.

Data source: ¹Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database; Ontario Population Estimates and Projections, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO. Accessed June 15 2016

Together with our communities, Algoma Public Health is a leader in promoting and protecting health and well-being

Lyme disease in Algoma: Prevention tips and 2015 summary



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Quick facts

- Lyme disease is acquired from infected blacklegged tick bites and if left untreated, can result in neurological effects, recurring arthritis and, in very rare cases, death.
- Lyme disease is becoming more common in Ontario. In 2010, **72 cases** of Lyme disease were reported in Ontario compared to **359 cases** in 2015, representing a **399% increase**.¹
- Algoma Public Health does tick dragging every spring and summer season to identify whether blacklegged ticks are present in the District of Algoma.
- Algoma Public Health also investigates all reported human cases of Lyme disease and provides information on testing and treatment to clients and physicians.

Ticks submitted for testing by Algoma residents in 2015

	2015	2010-2014
Submitted for identification	24 ticks	9.2 ticks yearly average
Potential carriers	5 ticks (3 acquired in Michigan)	1.2 ticks yearly average
Positive for Lyme disease	1 tick (acquired in Michigan)	0 ticks five year total

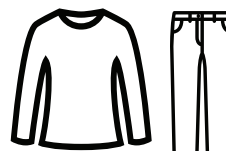
Protect yourself



Search for ticks on your body after time in grassy areas



Wear closed footwear and socks



Cover skin with light coloured clothes



Use tick repellent with "DEET"

How to remove a tick

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure while avoiding twisting or jerking as this may cause the mouth parts to break off.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub or soap and water.

What to do with a removed tick

- Place in a secure container, one example being a screw-top medication bottle
- Bring the tick to your local public health unit or health care professional for testing.

Data source: ¹Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database; Ontario Population Estimates and Projections, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO. Accessed June 15 2016

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