

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus first appeared in the US in 1999. Since then, it has steadily moved across the US. In Oregon, the first case was reported in 2004. West Nile is a mosquito-borne viral disease that affects both animals and humans. Birds are the reservoir of the disease; humans and other animals are considered to be dead-end hosts.

Of those infected, 1 in 5 will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches; fewer people, about 1 in 150, will have more severe symptoms including neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis, and coma. The risk of getting West Nile virus is very low. Though most cases have been found in people aged 20-50 years, those over 50 years of age have the highest risk of developing serious illness.

In 2005, 8 human cases of WNV were reported.

West Nile Virus by Age and Sex Oregon, 2005

