

Public Service Announcement



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West Nile Virus protection for northerners travelling south

Northerners who travel south should take appropriate precautions against mosquitoes that spread the West Nile Virus.

“Although the *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus have not been found to be present in northern Saskatchewan, there is an increased risk of exposure in southern Saskatchewan,” said Dr. James Irvine, Medical Health Officer for the three northern health authorities. “If you plan to travel south this summer for business, or on vacation, please take protective measures.”

Travellers can significantly reduce the risk of mosquito bites by:

- using appropriate insect repellent;
- wearing protective clothing when outdoors;
- reducing the amount of time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn; and
- maintaining screens on campers so they fit tightly and are free of holes.

“Many festivals and sporting events take place outdoors, and this can make people especially vulnerable,” added Dr. Irvine.

While the majority of individuals infected with the West Nile Virus will experience no symptoms or only mild illness such as fever and headaches, the virus can sometimes result in serious illness.

Additional information is available on the HealthLine Online website (<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/healthline-online>) or call the HealthLine at 1-877-800-0002.