

**West Nile virus** 正體中文**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Virus				Flaviviridae

**Common name** West Nile virus (English)**Synonym****Similar species** *St. Louis encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Kunjin Virus*

**Summary** West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus native to Africa, Europe, and Western Asia. WNV is mostly transmitted by *Culex* mosquitoes in a cycle involving birds as amplifying hosts. However infected mosquitoes can also transmit the virus to other animals and humans. Most animals are “dead-end” hosts and do not contribute to virus spread or evolution in nature, because infection in non-avian species results in low virus levels that is insufficient for infection of mosquitoes.

Since its introduction into the United States in the New York City area in 1999 WNV has continued to expand its range across the United States and into Canada, Mexico and Central and South America. WNV causes severe disease humans, horses and other vertebrates. Most people infected with West Nile virus have only mild illness. However the virus can also cause severe neuroinvasive diseases, often leading to death. No specific medication exists to treat West Nile virus infection, and there is currently no vaccine available for humans. Control measures focus on reducing mosquito breeding habitat: standing water in urban areas, agricultural areas, and wetlands.

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