



City of Sedona
Public Works Department
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Mosquito-Borne Illness: West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zika Virus

When springtime and warmer weather arrive, concerns about mosquito breeding season arise, as well as concern for the possible diseases spread by mosquitoes. While West Nile Virus (WNV) is still relatively new, it is joined by yet another new disease spread by mosquitoes, the Zika Virus. Both of these viruses are spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes, and as such, the most effective means to reduce the potential for transmission is to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, wearing appropriate clothing, and using appropriate repellent. However, unlike the West Nile Virus, the Zika Virus may also be spread through sexual intercourse. As of October 2016, there are no cases of 'native' Zika Virus (i.e. cases caused by mosquitoes in Arizona), only cases where travelers have caught it abroad and returned to Arizona.

What does the City of Sedona do?

The City of Sedona implements a treatment plan during the mosquito season, typically late April through November, to reduce the potential for mosquitos to breed. The City has developed a list of areas where stagnant water is likely to form, which are based on past observations, and these areas are checked after rain events. The wetlands at the Waste Water Treatment Facility are also monitored regularly for mosquito activity.

The City uses larvacide to treat for mosquitos, and has had good results. The larvacide, which contains no toxic or hazardous substances, is applied to the surface of water as necessary.

What can you do?

You can also take steps to reduce the mosquito breeding locations as well as the likelihood of being bitten. Follow the "Four D's", which are;

Drain - empty and eliminate any standing water on your property,

DEET - wear protective insect repellent,

Dress - wear long sleeves and pants to cover as much skin as you can, and

Dusk to Dawn - avoid activities outside between dusk and dawn when mosquito activity is the greatest.

Additionally, the public is urged to report any areas of standing water to Pete Garcia, City of Sedona Maintenance Department, at (928) 203-5063.

Would you like to learn more?

More information is available for West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, and mosquitoes in general (click on the thumbnails below).



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For any other questions, please contact Michael Righi, Assistant Engineer, City of Sedona Public Works Department, at (928) 203-5088 or MRighi@SedonaAZ.gov.

