

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) QUICK FACTS

Since rearing its ugly head in 1999 and rapidly spreading from coast to coast, WNV has become the leading cause of arbovirus encephalitis in horses and humans in the United States.

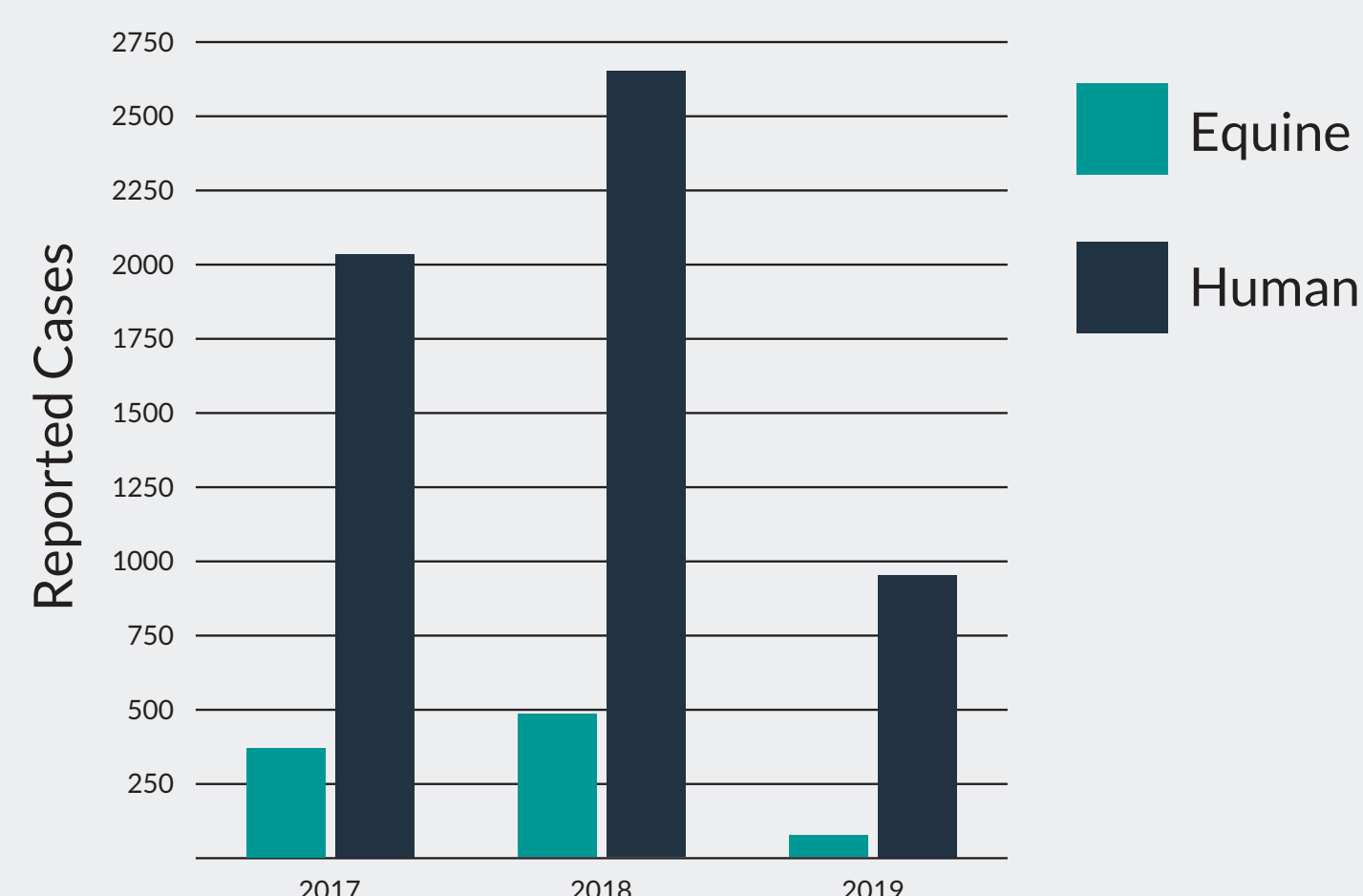
- Transmitted by mosquitoes or other biting insects
- Endemic in all areas of North America
- Causes inflammation of the brain and spinal cord (encephalomyelitis)
- Incubation period is **7-10 days**
- Mortality rates can reach over **30 percent**
- Infected horses are not contagious
- All horses should be vaccinated every year¹



West Nile Virus Continues to be a Threat to You and Your Horse

Almost all cases are in unvaccinated horses or horses with unknown vaccination histories.

- 2019 equine cases reported: 90²
- 2018 equine cases reported: 493²
- 2017 equine cases reported: 307²
- 2019 human cases reported: 971³
- 2018 human cases reported: 2,647³
- 2017 human cases reported: 2,097³



Watch for These Signs

- ⚠ Depression
- ⚠ Low-grade fever (101.5°F-103.5°F)
- ⚠ Lack of appetite
- ⚠ Change in behavior
- ⚠ Muscle fasciculations (twitching)
- ⚠ Incoordination/ataxia
- ⚠ Head tilt, ear droop, difficulty swallowing
- ⚠ Recumbency (inability to rise)
- ⚠ Colic
- ⚠ Death



Diagnosis

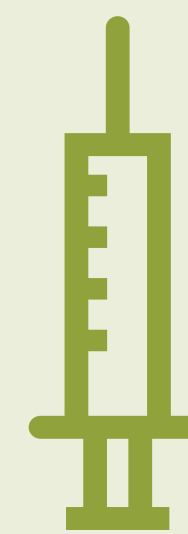
- Diagnosis is based on clinical signs and confirmed with a blood test.



Prevention

Vaccination is the No. 1 way to protect your horse:

- Initial vaccination, followed by a booster in 3-4 weeks. Yearly vaccination thereafter
- More frequent boosters may be recommended in areas with year-round mosquito seasons or for immune-compromised horses



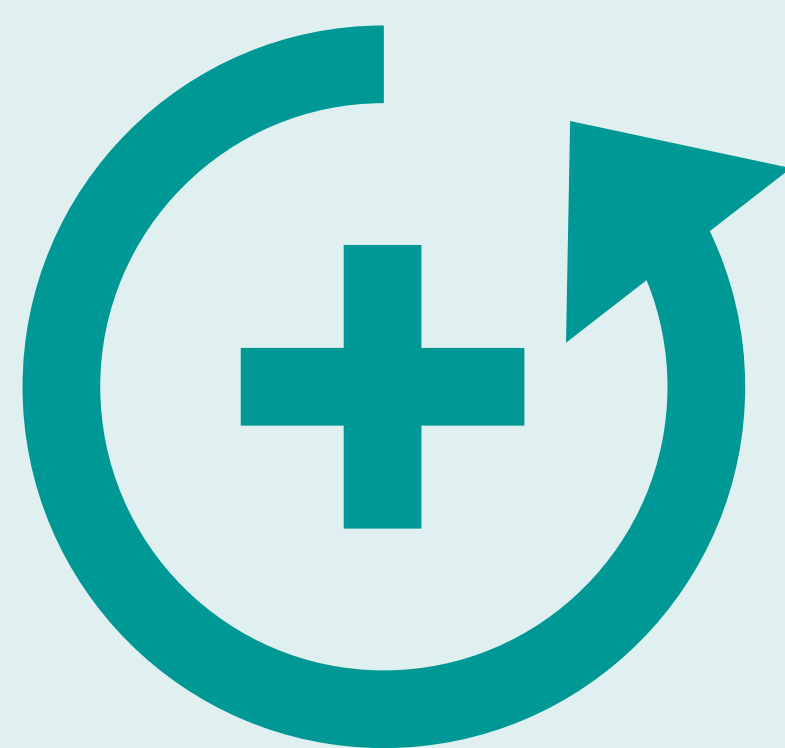
Minimize your horse's exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use insect repellents frequently
- Stable horses at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- Eliminate or minimize standing water on property
- Stock tanks or ponds with mosquito-feeding fish
- Remove organic debris and items in which standing water can collect



Treatment and Recovery

- There is no cure for WNV. Supportive care is focused on systemic support, managing inflammation and avoiding further injury
- Recovery is possible. Of the horses that do survive, about 60-80% experience a full recovery⁵



**COST OF
WNV VACCINATION:**

≈\$25-\$100

**COST OF
WNV SUPPORTIVE CARE:**

\$1,000's

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information
www.AAEP.org/guidelines
www.aphis.usda.gov

Talk to your veterinarian today about WNV. For more information on the PRESTIGE[®] line of WNV vaccines, visit www.PrestigeVaccines.com.

¹AAEP Core Vaccination Guidelines (aaep.org)

²USDA APHIS 2019 Summary of West Nile Virus Equine Cases in the United States, March 2020. (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/animal_diseases/2019-wnv-report.pdf)

³ArboNET, Arboviral Diseases Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1999-2019 (<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsmaps/cumMapsData.html#one>)

⁴Wilson JH, Davis A, Bender JB, Minicucci LA, Residual Effects of West Nile Viral Encephalomyelitis in Horses. In: 49th Annual Convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, 2003, New Orleans, Louisiana, (Ed.)



BE SURE IT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

Brought to you by:

PRESTIGE[®]

The Science of
Healthier Animals

2 Giralda Farms • Madison, NJ 07940 • merck-animal-health-usa.com • 800-521-5767
Copyright © 2021 Intervet Inc., d/b/a/ Merck Animal Health, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.
All rights reserved. US-EQV-190800035

