

**Are duck hunters and other wild game hunters at risk for WNV infection?**

Because of their outdoor exposure, game hunters may be at risk if they are bitten by mosquitoes in areas with WNV activity. The extent to which WNV may be present in wild game is unknown.

Can I get WNV from handling dead animals?

There is no evidence that WNV can be spread directly from animals to people. Most studies indicate that while mammals can become infected with WNV, they do not develop high concentrations of virus in their blood or tissues. However, gloves should be worn whenever dead animals are handled.

What should wild game hunters do to protect against WNV infection?

Hunters should follow the usual precautions when handling wild animals. If they anticipate being exposed to mosquitoes, they should apply insect repellent to clothing and skin, according to label instructions, to prevent mosquito bites. Hunters should wear gloves when handling and cleaning animals to prevent blood exposure to bare hands, and meat should be cooked thoroughly.

Whom should wild game hunters contact for information about the risk for WNV infection in specific geographic areas?

Hunters should check with their local area department of wildlife and natural resources; the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, Wisc. (608.270.2400); the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (701.328.6300); or the North Dakota Department of Health (800.472.2180) for information about local area risk.

You may also choose to contact local wildlife authorities and/or health authorities to find out whether the area where the animal was harvested has WNV activity and whether animals of the species in question were affected.

Additional Information:

Is available at www.ndhealth.gov/wnv or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

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