WEST NILE VIRUS AND OTHER MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Annual Edition 2019

WHAT IS THE RISK?

West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of domestically acquired **mosquito-borne diseases** (MBD) in Canada

WHO'S AT GREATER RISK?

Advanced age and people with **underlying medical conditions** (e.g. diabetes, cancer, heart disease) are at increased risk of WNV neurological syndrome

HOW TO MANAGE?

- There is **NO SPECIFIC TREATMENT OR VACCINE** for WNV
- Patients are treated for their symptoms

WNV TRANSMISSION

45 Positive dead wild birds

96 Positive mosquito pools

8 Positive horses

FACTS

REPORTED IN 2019:

45 human infections

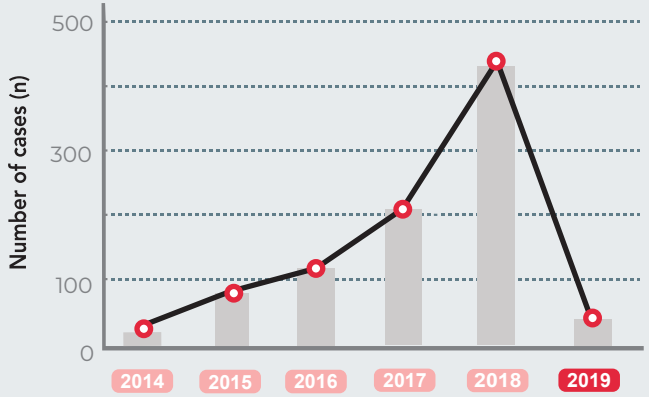
41 clinical cases

4 asymptomatic infections

8 clinical cases were likely infected during travel

When compared to the previous 5 years, a lower number of human and animal cases were observed in 2019. **Recurring fluctuations in the number of WNV infections from year to year are not unexpected.**

Reported number of WNV human clinical cases in Canada, 2014–2019



OTHER MBD

18 human infections of **CALIFORNIA SEROGROUP** viruses

7 horses tested positive for **EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS** virus

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Avoid becoming infected with WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases by:

PROTECTING YOURSELF

- cover exposed skin
- use insect repellent with DEET or Icaridin

REDUCING SURROUNDING RISK

- eliminate standing water
- maintain window and door screening

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