

**Contact:**

Brian Griffin

Phone: 312-552-4612

[Brian.griffin@publicis-usa.com](mailto:Brian.griffin@publicis-usa.com)

Angela Bendorf Jamison

919-719-2081

[angela@communicopiaPR.com](mailto:angela@communicopiaPR.com)

**West Nile Virus: Is Your Family at Risk?**

VNR Time: 2 minutes, 26 seconds

B-roll: 2 minutes, 43 seconds

**More info at [www.westnilevirusfacts.org](http://www.westnilevirusfacts.org)**

**STUDIO ANCHOR:** IT'S MOSQUITO SEASON AGAIN—AND THAT MEANS RENEWED CONCERN ABOUT WEST NILE VIRUS. COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE GRAPPLING WITH THE QUESTION, "TO SPRAY OR NOT TO SPRAY?" DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS DOING TO COMBAT THIS POTENTIALLY FATAL DISEASE? MARK REARDON HAS A LOOK AT PESTICIDE SPRAYING AND OTHER COMMUNITY EFFORTS THAT CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY.

**AUDIO**

**REPORTER V/O:** WEST NILE VIRUS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY THIS YEAR, AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE DOING MORE TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AND WORRY-FREE FROM THIS DEBILITATING DISEASE.

THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY IS KNOWLEDGE. YOU MUST KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY CAN DO TO CONTROL MOSQUITOES. TOOLS INCLUDE TAKING STEPS LIKE ELIMINATING STANDING WATER AROUND YOUR HOME AND INSECTICIDE SPRAYING AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY. BECAUSE SPRAYING IS SO EFFECTIVE, YOU'RE MORE LIKELY THAN EVER TO SEE ULTRA LOW-VOLUME PESTICIDE SPRAYING IN YOUR AREA THIS SUMMER, ESPECIALLY AT DUSK AND DAWN WHEN MOSQUITOES ARE MOST ACTIVE.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION ENDORSE SPRAYING EPA-REGISTERED PESTICIDES. PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS ALSO AGREE THAT COMMUNITIES NEED TO SPRAY IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE RISKS POSED BY MOSQUITOES CARRYING WEST NILE VIRUS.

**DR. KIMBERLY THOMPSON, RISK ANALYSIS SPECIALIST, HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH O/C/:** EVERY INDICATION IS THAT WEST NILE VIRUS WILL BE EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD THIS YEAR.

-MORE-

**REPORTER V/O:** COMMUNITIES CONDUCTING SEVERAL ROUNDS OF SPRAYING CAN REDUCE MOSQUITO POPULATIONS BY AS MUCH AS 40 PERCENT WITH EACH APPLICATION.

DR. THOMPSON SUGGESTS PEOPLE **SHOULD NOT** BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS SPRAYED BECAUSE PROVEN PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE WITH MINIMAL RISKS.

EVEN THOUGH THE RISKS ARE VERY LOW, PEOPLE MAY PREFER TO AVOID OR FURTHER MINIMIZE EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES. IF YOUR COMMUNITY SPRAYS DURING THE DAY, THEN FOLLOW THESE COMMON SENSE STEPS:

- STAY INFORMED THROUGH THE LOCAL MEDIA AND YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ABOUT SPRAYING SCHEDULES.
- REMAIN INDOORS DURING APPLICATIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA AS DIRECTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.
- IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TOYS, PLAY EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER THINGS LEFT OUTDOORS DURING SPRAYING, SIMPLY WIPE THEM DOWN WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE USING AGAIN.

**REPORTER V/O:** PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS ONLY WISH THEIR COMMUNITIES WERE MORE COMMITTED TO MOSQUITO ABATEMENT.

**ART ADAMS, WEST NILE VIRUS VICTIM O/C:** "YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS TO GET WEST NILE VIRUS. I HAD WEST NILE ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS AGO AND I'M STILL TRYING TO RECOVER FROM IT."

**DR. THOMPSON:** INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES NEED TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN YOUR COMMUNITY, MAKE SURE HEALTH OFFICIALS ACTIVELY IDENTIFY AND SPRAY HIGH-RISK AREAS WHERE MOSQUITOES THRIVE.

**REPORTER V/O:** ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MOSQUITO CONTROL AND WEST NILE VIRUS IS AVILABLE ONLINE AT [WestNileVirusFacts.org](http://WestNileVirusFacts.org), IT OFFERS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM DR. THOMPSON AND OTHER EXPERTS ON THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, AS WELL AS WAYS TO AVOID IT.

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