

WEST NILE VIRUS

Is my child at risk for becoming infected with West Nile virus while attending school?

The mosquitoes that most commonly carry West Nile virus are generally more active during the early evening (dusk) to early morning (dawn) so children who attend school during the daytime are at minimal risk for exposure. The school yards are mainly located in open areas on asphalt or short grass/dirt – not conducive for harbouring mosquitoes. As well, the school is actively involved in reducing mosquito breeding sites (standing water) and resting sites (tall grasses and weeds) on school property. Children are at minimal risk for exposure to mosquitoes and no precautions are needed.

For more information on West Nile virus and how it affects your child at school, on field trips and what precautions to take, refer to West Nile Virus Information Sheet to be found on the Halton Catholic District School Board web site (www.hcdsb.org (+student Programs and Services – Medical Conditions). The WNV Information Sheet is a collaborative effort of the Halton Region Health Department and the Halton Catholic District School Board. If you cannot access the West Nile Virus Information Sheet on the school web site please contact the school office for a copy to be sent home.

Parents interested in finding answers to:

- What can I do to reduce my risk of becoming infected with West Nile virus?
- What can I do around my home to protect my family from exposure to mosquitoes?
- Precautions to take when using insect repellent with DEET?

Connect to the Halton Region Health Department website: www.halton.ca/wnv
or call the Halton Region Health Department at (905) 825-6000.