

## TIPS FOR PARENTS



[www.dupagehealth.org/ftb](http://www.dupagehealth.org/ftb)

 [fightthebitedupage](https://www.facebook.com/fightthebitedupage)

 [@fight\\_the\\_bite](https://twitter.com/fight_the_bite)

**ABATEMENT  
PARTNER LOGO**

Very few children have been reported with severe West Nile virus (WNV) disease, but it's always a good idea for children to "Fight the Bite" and avoid mosquito bites.

WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. WNV is not spread through contact with other persons.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:**

Use repellents with DEET concentrations of 30 percent or less on children ages 2 to 12. They have been tested and approved as safe for kids.

Generally, repellent with DEET should not be applied more than once a day and is not recommended for babies younger than two months.

When using repellent on a child, apply it to your own hands and then on your child.

Avoid children's eyes and mouths and use the repellent sparingly around their ears.

Do not apply repellent to children's hands, because children tend to put their hands in their mouths.

Do not allow a young child to apply his or her repellent.

Keep repellents out of reach of children.

Do not use combination sunscreen-insect repellent products because reapplying them frequently enough to prevent sunburn will expose your child to too much DEET.

Do not apply repellent to skin under clothing. If repellent is applied to clothing, wash treated clothing before wearing again.

Consult your child's doctor for more information.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS



[www.dupagehealth.org/ftb](http://www.dupagehealth.org/ftb)

 [fightthebitedupage](https://www.facebook.com/fightthebitedupage)

 [@fight\\_the\\_bite](https://twitter.com/fight_the_bite)

**ABATEMENT  
PARTNER LOGO**

### HOW IS WNV INFECTION TREATED?

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In cases with milder symptoms, people experience fevers and aches that pass on their own, although the illness may last weeks to months even in healthy persons. Milder WNV illness improves on its own and people do not necessarily need medical attention, although they may choose to do so. If anyone in your family develops symptoms of severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately.

**The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Environmental Health has updated their recommendation for use of DEET products on children in 2003, citing:**

“Insect repellents containing DEET with a concentration of 10% appear to be as safe as products with a concentration of 30% when used according to the directions on the product labels.”

AAP recommends that repellents with DEET should not be used on infants less than 2 months old. Parents should choose the type and concentration of repellent to be used by taking into account the amount of time that a child will be outdoors, exposure to mosquitoes, and the risk of mosquito-transmitted disease in the area.

If you are concerned about using repellent products on children you may wish to consult a health care provider for advice or contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) through their toll-free number, 1-800-858-7378 or [npic.orst.edu](http://npic.orst.edu)

From [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect\\_repellent.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm)