SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories
2015 West Nile Virus Cases

Updated Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Most people get infected with West Nile virus by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals.

In a very small number of cases, West Nile virus has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, and from mother to baby during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.

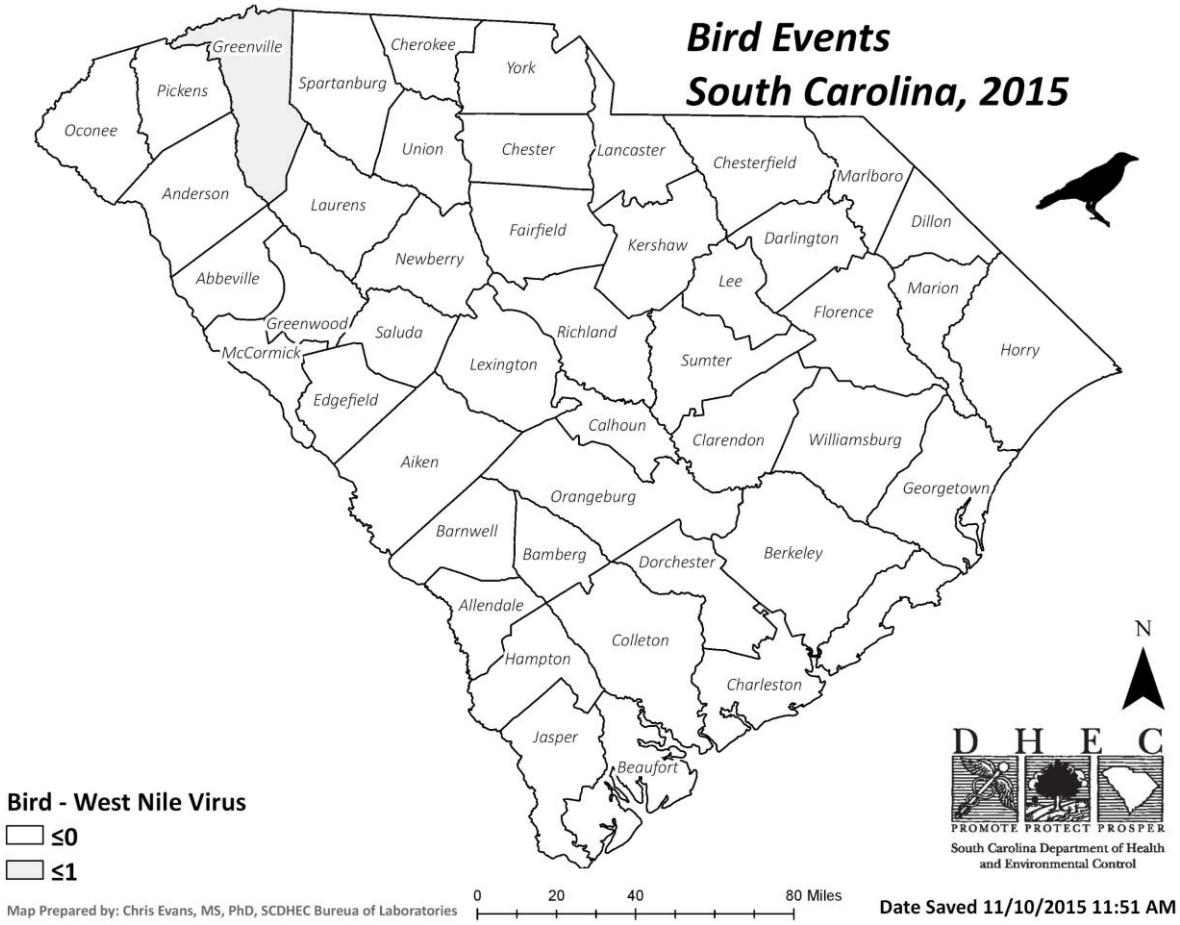
No symptoms in most people. Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms.

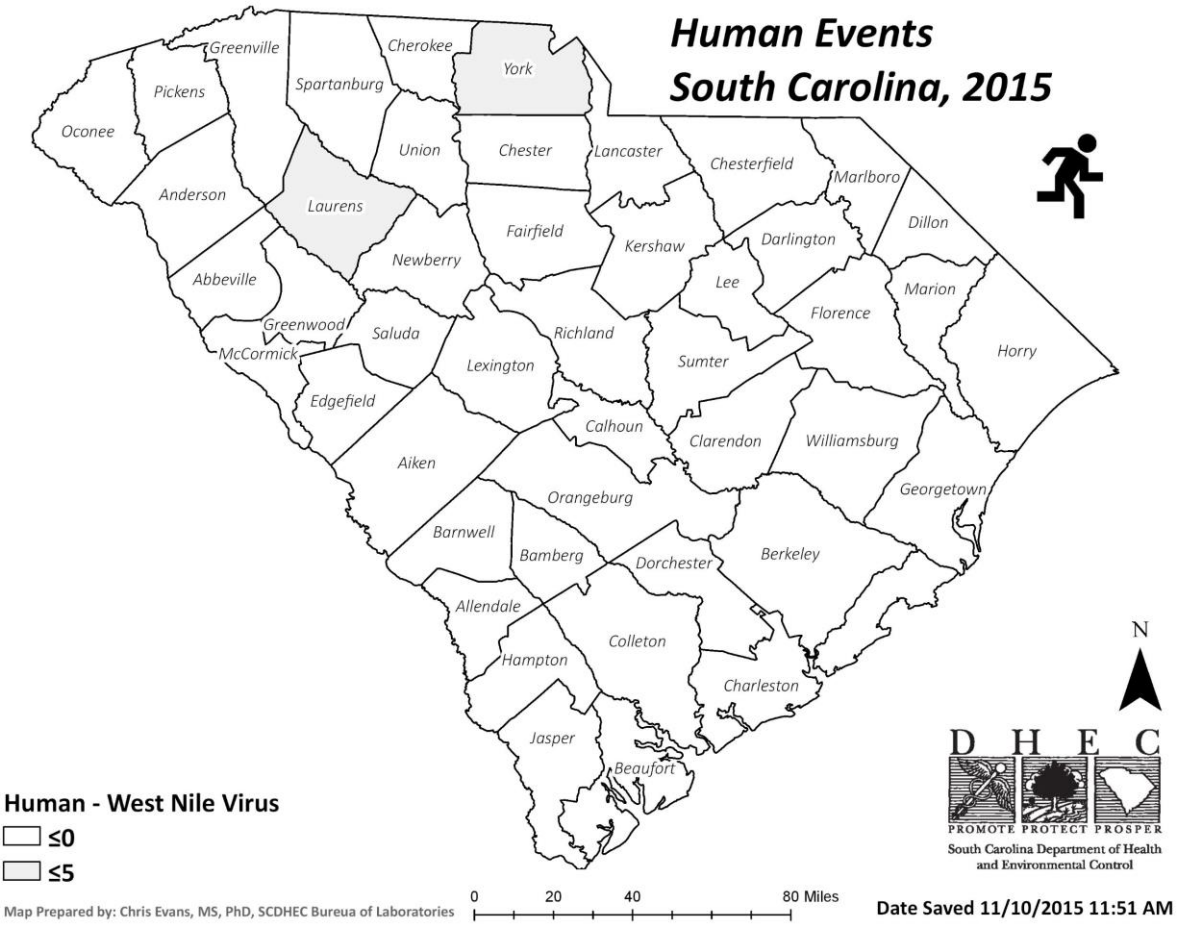
Illness with fever in some people. About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

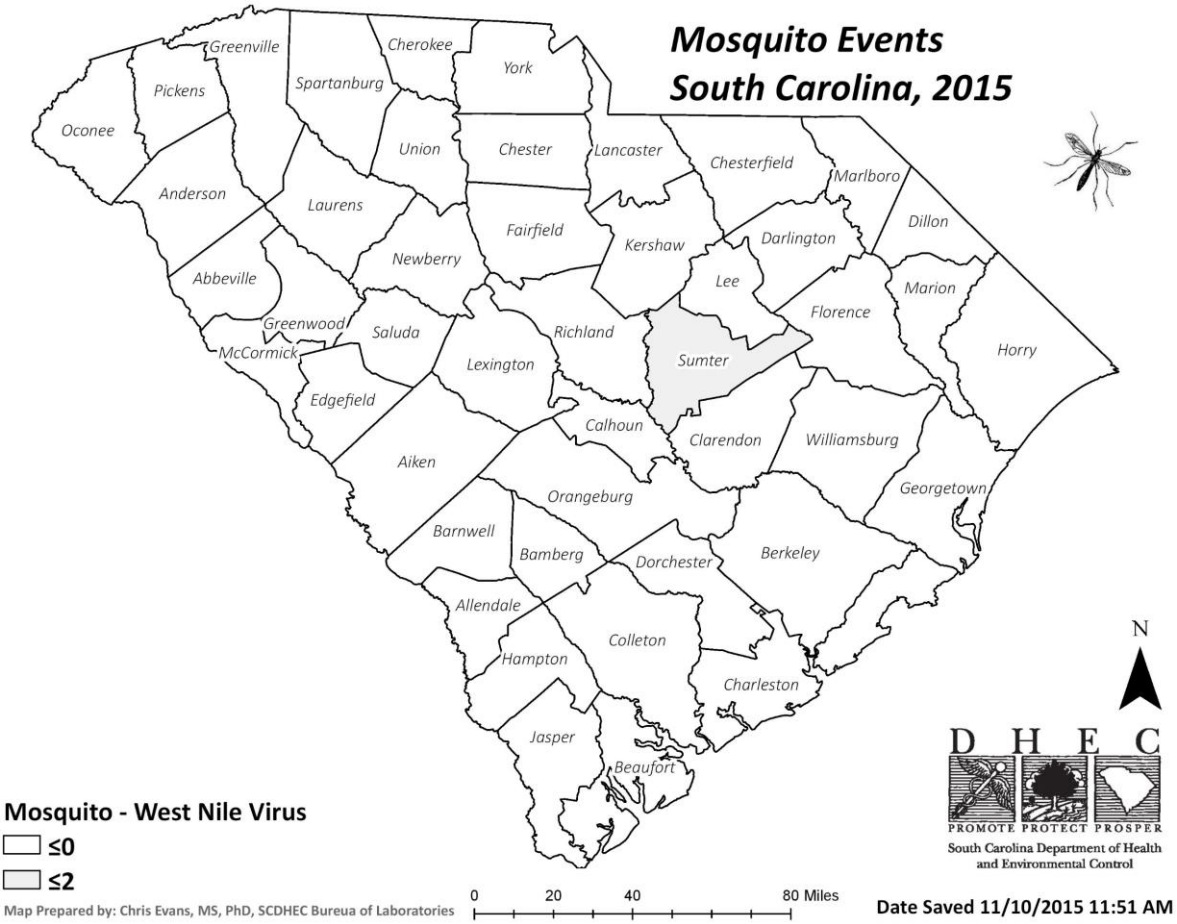
Severe symptoms in a few people. Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). The symptoms of neurologic illness can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, or paralysis.

Recovery from severe disease may take several weeks or months. Some of the neurologic effects may be permanent. About 10 percent of people who develop neurologic infection due to West Nile virus will die. *Source: http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/genQuestions.html*

A "mosquito pool" is defined as a collection of mosquitoes (usually 1 to 50 specimens) that were pooled together for testing purposes and consists of the same mosquito species that were collected from the same location on the same date.







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