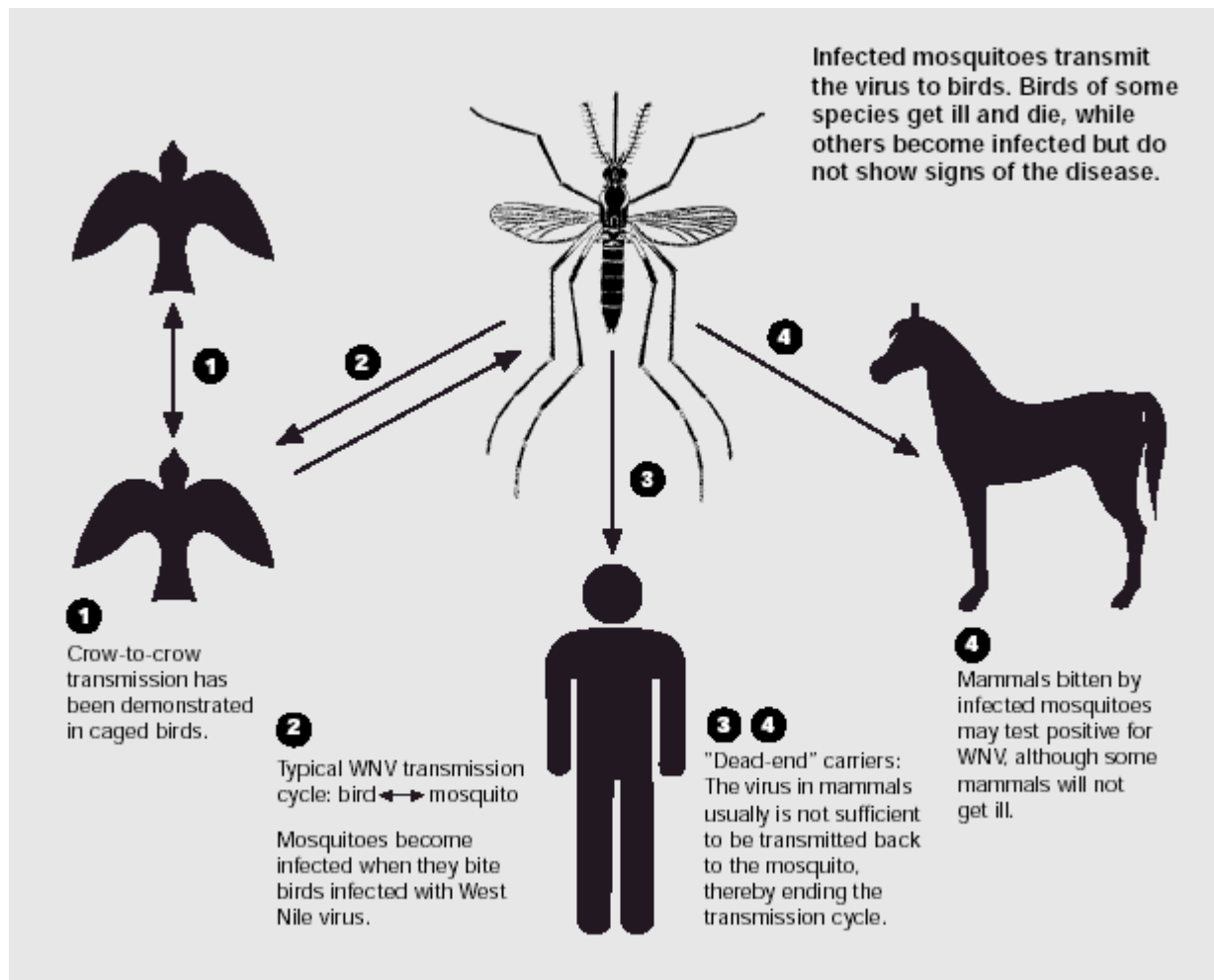


Transmission Cycle

- Mosquitoes become infected when they take a blood meal from an infected bird.
- The virus circulates and multiplies in the mosquito's blood for several days.
- The virus then penetrates the mosquito's salivary glands.
- After an incubation period of 10 to 14 days, the infected mosquito can transmit West Nile virus to humans and animals while taking its next blood meal.
- During the feeding, the saliva and virus are injected into the animal or human, where it multiplies and may cause illness.



Source: Pennsylvania State University

Not Transmitted From Person to Person

The West Nile virus is not transmitted from person to person. You cannot get it from touching, kissing, or caring for a person who has the disease, or from a health care worker who has treated someone with the disease. **People usually only get the West Nile virus from the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus.**

There is no evidence that a person can get the virus from handling live or dead infected birds. However, avoid bare-handed contact when handling dead animals, including dead birds. Use gloves or double plastic bags to place the carcass in a garbage can.