Avoid Mosquitoes! Avoid The West Nile Virus!

Brought to you by Maricopa County Environmental Services Dept.

Throw the ball!

It's my turn Mike!

Let's have some fun!

HA-HA-HA-HA

Ha, Ha, Ha... Children... I am so hungry... I am going to bite them... easy preys...

Oh no! A mosquito is standing on my nose... I think it's going to bite me...

Shoooo! Mosquito! You'll see it with me!

You'll never catch me TermiNile V... I will keep on transmitting the West Nile Virus among children... and you can't help it...
Really? Take this! So long... Mosquito.

But Michael what in blazes was all that? Who are you?

I'm not the only one, as long as there are people who let water stand for days... We will breed quickly and be ready to bite all of the children... Ha, ha, ha...

I had no idea mosquitoes were that mean...

I'm sorry for not revealing my secret identity before, but I had to avoid that wicked mosquito from biting Sandy. I am your friend TermiNile V and my mission is to prevent more kids from getting infected by the dangerous West Nile Virus.

Aren't you exaggerating? Mosquitoes can be really pesky, but they are only insects... how much harm can they do to us?
A mosquito's bite can transmit terrible diseases as the West Nile Virus...

West Nile Virus is a dangerous disease transmitted when a mosquito at first bites infected birds and then goes and bites a human being.

West what Virus?

Oh my gosh! And how can I know if I am infected with the West Nile Virus?

The symptoms are very much alike to flu:
Fever
Headache
Body aches
Nausea
Vomiting
Swollen lymph glands
Skin rash on the chest, stomach and back.

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And now how about going inside the house, because the favorite hour for mosquitoes to bite is at dusk and dawn.

Do you mean mosquitoes take advantage of the moment when we enter and leave school to bite us? That is so rude!

Not so fast mean mosquito...

Ha, ha, ha... Exactly... And now I will bite you...

FOOOF!

You defeated me TermiNile V!

This is terrible! But... What can we do to avoid getting bit? Mosquitoes are everywhere...

Even though it is impossible to completely eliminate mosquitoes, there are lots of things we can do as a family and community in order to make our environment less mosquito friendly and this way keep us away from bites and diseases.
Let’s be very careful not letting water accumulate and stand in any place: avoid green pools, change your pet’s water bowl daily...

We should keep our backyards free from forgotten objects and toys were water might collect. Standing water is a great place for mosquitoes to breed, and that is really dangerous.

It’s also important to talk to your parents so together you will keep backyards and pools clean and working properly. A Mosquito does not only put you and your family in danger, but all of the neighbors too...
Make sure a parent applies, as directed on the label, insect repellent on your uncovered skin and clothing every time you leave the house. This will prevent mosquitoes from getting near to us.

Wear light color clothing and, if possible because of the climate, long sleeves. Light colors are less attractive to mosquitoes. When getting dressed, having less skin exposed, means less opportunities of getting bit.

Repair and secure mosquito nets from doors and windows. This way you will keep unwanted visitors outside.
And it's also very important to... Spread the word! We should all know how dangerous a mosquito bite can be... as awareness increases, the community is rewarded by reducing the incidence of mosquitoes.

How many times have you been bit lately by a mosquito? It's time to pay attention and prevent it...

You are right, mosquito bites are a serious matter... They are very dangerous!

And if right now you have a mosquito bite, tell your parents so they can help you. They can contact the West Nile Virus hotline for assistance or take you to the doctor, if needed.
Talk to your parents about the ways you can prevent getting bit and infected... and report to the county inspectors any problems with mosquitoes in your neighborhood so they can help you. They even have fish that eat immature mosquitoes, preventing them from becoming adults.

West Nile Virus is a serious disease that can easily be prevented...

Hey Guys! How about from now on being standing water inspectors?

All the standing water you detect, pour it or report it to your parents or county authorities.

Against the West Nile Virus... You can make the difference!

For more information, complaints and other issues related to the West Nile Virus please call: 602 - 506 - 0700 or visit our website at: www.maricopa.gov/wnv