

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

This time of year it is always good to be extra careful to prevent mosquito bites. The **West Nile Virus** is spread by mosquitoes that are infected with the virus. Recently, the neighborhood of Nicholson Elementary School was identified by the Montgomery County Sanitarian as an area with infected mosquitoes. If you live within ¼ mile of Nicholson Elementary School you will find some helpful suggestions and information below to keep your children and family safe:

- People can avoid mosquito bites by limiting their time outside during dawn and dusk, prime times for mosquitoes to feed
- When outside, wear clothing that covers the skin
- Wear insect repellent recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) [see back of letter]
- Stay away from areas that are wet/moist

Most mosquitoes bite during the evening when students are not in school. However, Nicholson Elementary School will be taking precautions and would like to make some suggestions for parents and students:

- When outside, wear clothing that covers the skin – you may send a light jacket to school or a long sleeve tee-shirt and sweat pants to keep in your child's locker to slip over their shorts during the warmer weather
- Wear insect repellent recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) (see back side of letter) – You may spray or wipe your child **prior** to them coming to school so they will be prepared when they go to recess
- If you would like to consider having your child stay in for recess until the first freeze (late November), please schedule an appointment with the school nurse and the principal to discuss this option. (765-362-2607)

Other pieces of helpful information:

- Our local Sanitation Department is following proper procedures to help with this situation
- More information regarding West Nile Virus may be found at www.cdc.gov/Features/WestNileVirus
- Symptoms of West Nile Virus are rash on the trunk of the body with fever (101 degrees or higher); headache, body aches, and swollen lymph glands

Kathleen J. Steele, Ph.D.
Superintendent