THE WEST NILE VIRUS IS NO MATCH FOR COMMON SENSE.
• Wear insect repellent applied according to manufacturer’s instruction. Supervise use by children.

• Wear light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts to cover exposed skin.

• Repair holes in door and window screens.

• Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.

• Get rid of old tires, buckets, drums, bottles and any other water-holding containers from the yard.

• Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in the yard.

• Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.

• Cover trash cans to keep out rainwater.

• Empty plastic wading pools, birdbaths, plant pots or drip trays every four to five days.

• Add sand to outdoor plant pot drip trays to absorb excess water.

• Tree rot holes and hollow stumps can hold water; make sure they are filled with sand or “rock wool”.

• Keep your grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.

• For places like small stagnant ponds, rain barrels and low-lying wet areas, use environmentally friendly larvicides, which kill mosquito larvae without danger to people, pets or wildlife; follow all label directions.

For more information, please contact the Illinois Department of Public Health at 217-782-5830 (www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm) or your local health department.