

West Nile Virus: It Starts with a Mosquito Bite

AUDIO: Faint music without lyrics playing in the background, throughout the entire video.

VISUALS: A man, Devin, sits in a well-lit living room with bookshelves in the background.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *These two paramedics, EMTs came in and said, what happened? And my wife and I looked at each other and said, “We don't know.” Like?*

TITLE TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: West Nile Virus. Subtitle: It starts with a mosquito bite. CDC logo below and centered.

VISUALS: Blue background transitions in behind the title.

AUDIO: Music gets louder and Devin begins speaking again.

VISUALS: Close-up of a person cutting wood with an electric saw. Close-up of a person hammering a nail into boards. Devin appears again in his living room.

NAME TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Devin – Georgia.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *In the summer of 2010, I wanted to build an outdoor shed. So it kept me outside after work until dark. I would start to get bitten by mosquitoes and I would spray insect repellent on my arms, and on my neck, and even on my face. Mosquito bites are part of life in the South. But I was wearing flip flops while I was working. I never remembered to spray my feet. And when I would come in at night, I would find myself scratching my ankles.*

VISUALS: Devin sprays bug repellent on his arms. Two mosquitoes land on a hand and are swatted away. A man walks outside in flip flops. Devin reappears in the living room. Mosquitoes swarm around outdoor lights at night.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: West Nile virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. Blue background animates to highlight the words, “the most common mosquito-borne disease.”

VISUALS: Curtains moving in the breeze. Devin appears in the living room.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *I took a nap one Saturday evening. When I woke up, I couldn't move my legs, which freaked me out. And I couldn't even sit up in bed. I couldn't tell whether I was dreaming or what was happening. It's, it's, it's surreal to wake up and not be able to move.*

VISUALS: Image of a couple lying in bed at night. Cut back to Devin in the living room.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Around 80% of people infected with West Nile virus **don't develop symptoms**. Fewer than 20% develop **mild illness** with fever, headache, and body aches. Less than 1% develop **severe illness** affecting the brain and spinal cord. Blue background behind 80%, 20% and 1%.

VISUALS: Each statistic and fact animates on screen, one by one.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *I was in four different hospitals in six months. I suffered respiratory failure on my fourth day. I was on a ventilator for six weeks. I almost died.*

VISUALS: A photo of Devin laying in a hospital bed, in a gown, hooked up to breathing tubes. A ventilator machine in use. Devin returns on screen.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Symptoms of West Nile virus often appear 2–14 days after a mosquito bite. Blue background animates over the words, “often appear 2–14 days after a mosquito bite.”

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *The doctors did notice mosquito bites. They also noted that it was late August. Late summer and early fall is when most cases of West Nile emerge.*

VISUALS: Devin speaking in the living room. An image of the sun is seen shining through window blinds.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Most cases occur in summer and early fall. Blue background animates over the words, “summer and early fall.”

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *I was shocked when they told me it was West Nile. People who are older and have preexisting conditions are more susceptible. I was a healthy, 39-year-old guy, totally normal. And then boom.*

VISUALS: Devin appears on screen. An older couple walks hand in hand outdoors. Devin is seen tending to plants outside.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Devin recovered from West Nile virus, but remains paralyzed from the waist down. Blue background animates over the words, “Devin recovered from West Nile virus.”

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *I was lucky to live. I wanted to kind of like turn it around and make it positive. That’s why I got my mosquito tattoo.*

VISUALS: Devin is seen in a wheelchair, rolling down the walkway of a garden outside of a home. Cut to Devin talking in the living room. He shows a red mosquito tattoo on his right shoulder.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *Take mosquitoes seriously. You can prevent mosquito bites.*

VISUALS: Mosquitos flying around outside. Devin sprays himself with bug repellent outdoors.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *Use insect repellent....*

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Protect yourself from mosquito bites. Highlighted text below: Use EPA-registered insect repellent.

GRAPHIC: Mosquito repellent spray bottle shown.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *Wear long pants, long sleeves...*

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Protect yourself from mosquito bites. Highlighted text below: Wear long pants and long sleeves.

GRAPHIC: Icons of long-sleeve shirt and pants appear.

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *... or clothing that’s been treated with permethrin.*

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Protect yourself from mosquito bites. Highlighted text below: Wear clothes treated with 0.5% permethrin.

GRAPHIC: Spray bottle and long-sleeve shirt shown.

VISUALS: Devin appears again

AUDIO OF DEVIN TALKING: *You can’t overdo protection from West Nile Virus. No one wants to be sick.*

VISUALS: Devin is seen in his wheelchair, tending to plants.

TEXT GRAPHICS APPEAR: Learn more at www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/prevention. CDC logo below and centered.

AUDIO: Music without lyrics fades out.