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Page 1 of 1

## NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

### Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus: Prevention Reminders

*Carson City* – Mosquito and West Nile Virus (WNV) season is quickly approaching. With the summer-like temperatures enticing people to be outdoors, the Nevada State Health Division reminds everyone that there are easy ways to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

Dr. Bradford Lee, Nevada State Health Officer, strongly urges Nevadans to practice preventive measures. “Last year there were 123 lab confirmed cases of WNV and many people developed serious illness. Unfortunately, one individual died due to complications associated with the virus. I cannot stress enough the importance of everyone, especially people 50 years and older, to use repellent containing DEET and wear long sleeves, pants and socks when outside, especially during dawn and dusk. Also, remove any standing water from around your house and check to make sure your window screens fit properly.”

Dr. Roger Works, Nevada State Veterinarian said, “It is extremely important that horse owners have their animals vaccinated for West Nile Virus. **California** is reporting eight counties with positive WNV activity, including one equine case, and it’s still early in the season.”

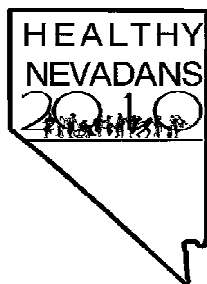
West Nile Virus most often is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are WNV carriers that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite. West Nile Virus is **NOT** spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

Please visit the following websites for more WNV information:

<http://agri.state.nv.us>

<http://health.nv.gov> Under Hot Topics, click on “West Nile Virus.”

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