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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division West Nile Virus Update

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division is reporting a total of 55 human cases statewide associated with West Nile Virus (WNV). By county, those individual cases are:

- **Carson City: 4**
 - 2 individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 2 individuals over the age of 50 with West Nile fever

- **Churchill County: 4**
 - 1 individual under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 2 individuals over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 1 over the age of 50: Other clinical

- **Clark County: 1**
 - 1 individual under the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)

- **Douglas County: 10**
 - 2 individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 3 individuals over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 1 individual under the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)
 - 3 individuals over the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)
 - 1 individual over the age of 50: Other clinical

- **Elko County: 10**
 - 3 individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 3 individuals over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
 - 1 individual under the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)

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- **Elko County continued**
- 2 individuals over the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)
- 1 individual over the age of 50: Other clinical

- **Humboldt County: 13**
- 5 individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
- 1 individual over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
- 3 individual under the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)
- 4 individuals over the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)

- **Lander County: 1**
- 1 individual under the age of 50 with West Nile fever

- **Lyon County: 7**
- 2 individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever
- 1 individual over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
- 2 individual under the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)
- 2 individuals over the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)

- **Pershing County: 1**
- 1 individual under the age of 50 with West Nile fever

- **Washoe County: 4**
- 1 individual over the age of 50 with West Nile fever
- 3 individuals over the age of 50 with the more severe form of the illness/neuroinvasive (meningitis and/or encephalitis)

“As we continue to enjoy outdoor activities during the last days of summer, it’s important to remember that mosquitoes remain active in every county in our state – that means that West Nile Virus is still a threat to the public’s health,” said Dr. Bradford Lee, Nevada State Health Officer. “Now is the time to remain vigilant in practicing the preventive measures to reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes. Remember to use mosquito repellent containing either DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, preferably in that order, wear long sleeve shirts, pants and socks, be aware that mosquitoes are most active during dusk and dawn, remove standing water from around your house and check to make sure the screens on your windows and doors fit properly.”

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“While serious symptoms of WNV infection are more common in people 50 years and over, we have seen individuals under the age of 50 develop the severe form of the disease. Regardless of a person’s age, prevention is the key to decrease your chance of being infected with West Nile Virus,” Dr. Lee concluded.

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 infected with the virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people infected with WNV will not have any type of illness or symptoms. It is estimated that 20 percent of the people who become infected will develop West Nile fever. Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness and body aches.

Approximately one in 150 persons (less than one percent) infected with WNV will develop a more severe form of the disease, West Nile encephalitis or meningitis. Symptoms of the more severe disease include severe headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

While there is no specific treatment for WNV infection, people who have been exposed to mosquitoes and experience symptoms of the more severe illness are encouraged to contact their health care provider immediately.

For more information about West Nile Virus, please access the following websites:

<http://health2k.state.nv.us>

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

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SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEDIA:

The Nevada State Health Division will be updating its West Nile Virus website every Friday, reporting new confirmed human cases associated with West Nile Virus.

URL: <http://health2k.state.nv.us/php/WNVCurrent/WNVactivity.htm>

Telephone numbers for public health questions:

Statewide: 1-888-608-4623

Washoe County: 775-328-2434

Carson City: 775-887-2190

Clark County – West Nile Hotline: 702-759-1220

Animal Health Questions:

Statewide: 775-688-1182, Ext. 232