

Alex Haartz, MPH
Administrator



Contact Name: Martha Framsted
Phone Number: 775-684-4014
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Page 1 of 2

State Health Officer

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division Announces Five Additional Human Cases of West Nile Virus in Nevada

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division is reporting **five** additional human cases associated with West Nile Virus (WNV).

County Statistics:

- **Churchill County (2):** one individual over the age of 50 with the neuroinvasive, or more severe form of the illness; one individual over the age of 50, other clinical.
- **Elko County (2):** two individuals under the age of 50 with West Nile fever.
- **Nye County (1):** one individual over the age of 50, other clinical.

Year to date, Nevada has a total of **eight** laboratory confirmed human cases associated with West Nile Virus. The previous cases this year were diagnosed in the following individuals:

- **Pershing County (1):** one individual under the age of 50 with West Nile fever.
- **Clark County (2):** one individual under the age of 50 with West Nile fever; one individual under the age of 50, other clinical.

“While we are experiencing cooler temperatures in northern Nevada, mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus continue to be in our environment. I continue to stress the importance of practicing preventive measures to reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes,” said Alex Haartz, Nevada State Health Division Administrator. “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.”

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.

(MORE)



Alex Haartz, Administrator

505 E. King Street, Room 201, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4797
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
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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.

Last year, there were 124 human cases associated with WNV reported to the Nevada State Health Division.

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://health.nv.gov>
<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://health.nv.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=391&Itemid=671

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