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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division Announces Second Human Case of West Nile Virus in 2010

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division is reporting one human case associated with West Nile Virus (WNV). The individual is 50 years of age or older and is a Churchill County resident.

The Churchill County individual had the less severe form of the disease, West Nile fever. This is the second confirmed case reported to the Health Division. The first case was a Washoe County resident.

“This is the second reported human case of West Nile Virus in a Nevada resident,” said Dr. Tracey D. Green, State Health Officer. “While temperatures are beginning to decrease, mosquitoes are still in our environment. I cannot stress enough the importance of 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.”

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.

(MORE)



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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.

Horse owners should ensure their animals are vaccinated for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE). WEE is another mosquito-borne disease that was found in Churchill County. Neither WNV nor WEE can be transmitted from horses to humans. There is no vaccine for WNV or WEE that will protect humans, therefore, the preventive measures outlined above are very important.

For more information about West Nile Virus, please access the following websites:
<http://health.nv.gov> and click on the West Nile Virus box, located on the main page.
<http://agri.state.nv.us>

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