

**Mosquitoes, Gnats, Beetles, and Other Bugs Prevalent in the Black Rock Desert –
West Nile Virus Nearby - Burning Man Participants Will Be Affected**

Burning Man officials who are out in the Black Rock Desert getting ready for the large festival have reported that there is an abundance of mosquitoes, gnats, beetles, stink bugs and other bugs present on and around the playa this year. The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health recommends that Burning Man attendees and others visiting the area bring out and use bug spray. The Health Division also suggests that visitors wear long sleeves and pants to help prevent being bitten.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory reported a West Nile virus positive mosquito pool in Pershing County near Rye Patch Reservoir at the end of July. In addition, last summer the Washoe County Health District confirmed that mosquito traps in the Gerlach area tested positive for the West Nile virus.

Therefore, it is possible that Burning Man attendees and other visitors to the area may be exposed to the virus. The virus has now been found in Washoe, Pershing, Clark, Mineral, and Elko counties of Nevada.

The West Nile virus attacks the nervous system and health officials recommend taking action to prevent bites.

To learn more about the West Nile virus visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>

or the

Washoe County Health District website at <https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programs-and-services/vector-borne-diseases/index.php> and
https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programs-and-services/vector-borne-diseases/west_nile_virus.php

Please direct any questions to the Washoe County Health District's Vector-Borne Disease Prevention Program at (775) 785-4599 or (775) 328-2436

or

the Nevada Department of Agriculture at (775) 353-3718.