



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2008

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FIRST WEST NILE POSITIVE MOSQUITOES FOUND IN WASHOE COUNTY

Testing of pools of mosquitoes trapped at Damonte Ranch, have shown that West Nile Virus (WNV) has found its way to Washoe County this summer. Other locations in Nevada have also seen the appearance of the virus, and the Washoe District Health Department is urging residents of our county to take precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes.

“Practicing preventive measures to reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes is the best way to prevent humans from contracting the virus, stated Mary Anderson, MD, MPH, District Health Officer. Remember to use mosquito repellent containing either DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, 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, also known as vectors. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to birds, horses, 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.

Anderson also reminds local horse owners to get their animals vaccinated against WNV, if they haven't done so as of yet. While pets like

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WNV Mosquitoes in Washoe County

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dogs and cats CAN contract the virus, it is very unlikely. Do not use repellents meant for humans on pets. Check with your veterinarian for products that are pet specific. For more information, please go to our web site at www.washoecounty.us/health or to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at CDC.gov.

-30-

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEDIA:

Telephone numbers:

Washoe County: 775-328-2434

Department of Agriculture: 775-688-1182, Ext. 231

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

Carson City: 775-887-2190