



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHOE COUNTY SEES FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS

The Washoe County Health District has received notification of the first probable human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in a Washoe County resident, according to Bob Sack, Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division Director. The resident who is under the age of 50 has the milder form of the illness, West Nile Fever, and has been hospitalized. Common symptoms of mild infections are fever, headache, body ache, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Those with a more severe infection may experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, paralysis and death. Individuals with symptoms of severe infection should seek medical attention immediately.

“To minimize chances of becoming ill in association with a mosquito bite, the Health District is reminding the residents of Washoe County to continue to take personal precautions, especially with temperatures remaining high, which provides enhanced mosquito breeding,” Sack stated.

Area residents should take the following precautions now and through the fall months to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes in and around their homes and to avoid being bitten:

- Clear the yard of any free-standing water that may become a mosquito breeding-ground such as that found in unused wading pools and animal troughs as well as buckets, containers and bowls that are kept wet by sprinkler systems.
 - Wear long sleeves and long pants in mosquito prone areas
 - Use mosquito repellent containing DEET and follow label precautions
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
 - Repair window screens that provide entry for mosquitoes

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WNV HUMAN CASE

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- Report nighttime mosquito activity to the Health District at 328-2434

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 is sometimes seen in this area. 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.

Health District Vector Borne Disease Program staff have been working since April to abate mosquitoes in Washoe County. Presently, only one location has produced WNV positive mosquito pools. This location is in the Damonte Ranch area.

For more information about West Nile Virus, please visit our web site at www.washoecounty.us/health or cdc.gov or call 775-328-2434.

If you have problems with mosquitoes in your neighborhood, please report it to the Health District by calling 775-328-2434 or 775-785-4599.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEDIA:

Telephone numbers for West Nile Virus:

Washoe County Health District: 775-328-2434

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

Nevada State Health Division - Statewide: Toll-Free Disease Information Line: 1-888-608-4623

Southern Nevada Health District - Clark County – West Nile Hotline: 702-759-1220

Carson City: 775-887-2190

