



Southwest Nebraska
Public Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

August 9, 2016

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus **Two Positive Human Cases in SWNPHD Health District**

Two human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) health district according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

“Unfortunately two positive human cases of West Nile Virus has been confirmed in our health district,” states Melissa Propp, RN, Surveillance Nurse at SWNPHD. “I am highly encouraging residents to prevent getting mosquito bites with personal protection and making adjustments to their surroundings.” Propp offered the following tips to prevent mosquito bites:

- ✓ Limit time outside from dusk till dawn
- ✓ Wear long-sleeves and keep your pants on
- ✓ Repair all holes in screens
- ✓ Dump stagnant water and keep your gutters clean
- ✓ Be sure to use insect repellent with DEET and repeat every four (4) hours

People with medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease are also at greater risk for serious illness with the West Nile Virus. “If you think a family member might have West Nile virus disease, consult your healthcare provider for a diagnosis,” explains Propp. “Prevention is the best way to avoid WNV and DEET in your repellent is the most effective.”

Please remember these precautions with DEET:

- Do not allow children under 10 years of age to apply repellent themselves
- Do not apply to young children’s hands, mouth or around eyes
- Do not breath in, swallow, or get into the eyes
- Do no put repellent on wounds or broken skin

More information on West Nile Virus may be found at our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street – one block north of Arby’s. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

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