

NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2014
For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Propp, RN, Tami Herskowitz, RN or Denise Ringenberg – 308-345-4223

Updates from Southwest NE Public Health Department

Numerous issues are occurring in the eight-county health district for Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD). This is the latest update:

West Nile Virus is at a peak with a total of 14 positive mosquito pools in Red Willow County and four in Chase County according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Three human cases have also been confirmed.

Tami Herskowitz, RN, Surveillance Nurse at SWNPHD offers the following advice: prevention is best way to avoid West Nile Virus. Be sure to use insect repellent with DEET and repeat every four hours, dump stagnant water, wear long-sleeves and pants when outside from dusk till dawn. “These are simple precautions that can help keep you safe from West Nile Virus” states Herskowitz. For more information or free DEET wipes contact Tami at tami@swhealth.ne.gov or call 308-345-4223.

SWNPHD is now scheduling flu shots. Melissa Propp, RN, will be at the following locations:

- Eustis on October 2nd
- Hayes Center on October 6th
- Curtis on October 13th
- Trenton on October 21st
- McCook, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:00

Call ahead to make sure a nurse is available to give shots and to schedule appointments at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD accepts several insurances or you can pay privately for the flu shot. Getting an annual flu shot is the best prevention for influenza according to the Center for Disease Control.

A positive case of chicken pox has been confirmed in the health district according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. SWNPHD encourages all residents to be current on their immunizations. Varicella shots can prevent or lessen the severity of chicken pox. For more information or to schedule shots, contact Melissa at 308-345-4223.

Furnas County Sheriff’s Department, Tri Valley Health Systems and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department are working together to host a **Drug Take-Back Event on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the front entrance of the hospital in Cambridge.** No paperwork is needed to drop off your meds. Drive up and drop off your unused prescription pills or patches. No liquids, sharps or needles. For more information on Drug Take-Back Day you can call the Furnas County Sherriff’s Department at 308-268-2245, Tri Valley Pharmacist Marcus Anderson at 308-697-1460 or Denise at 308-345-4223.

National Preparedness Month is September and youth (ages 18 & under) in our eight-county district can participate by creating a communications disaster plan and map for their family, submitting a copy to SWNPHD along with a photo of themselves with their family. Two winners will be selected to receive an iTunes gift card. Deadline is Friday, September 26th. You can find details on our website at www.swhealth.ne.gov or call 308-345-4223.

SWNPHD local radon poster contest deadline is approaching on October 3rd. Artwork submission forms and poster contest criteria may be found at our website: www.swhealth.ne.gov/environmental ; you can email educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call Denise Ringenberg at 308-345-4223. Past poster winners can be found on our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov.

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

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