



Southwest Nebraska
Public Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus **Positive Human Case in SWNPHD Health District** **Positive Mosquito Pool in Chase County**

McCook - A human case of West Nile Virus has been reported in the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) health district according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A mosquito pool in Chase County also tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

“A West Nile Virus human case has unfortunately been confirmed in our health district,” states Tami Herskowitz, Surveillance Nurse at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. “I am highly encouraging residents to prevent getting mosquito bites with personal protection and making adjustments to their surroundings.” Herskowitz 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 Herskowitz. “Prevention is the best way to avoid WNV and DEET in your repellent is the most effective. We have free DEET wipes at our office located in McCook at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby’s.”

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. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter. SWNPHD serves the counties of Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins & Red Willow.

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