



Southwest Nebraska
Public Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus: Positive Human Cases Reported in Iowa and Kansas

Positive human West Nile virus (WNV) cases have been reported in neighboring states according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is currently trapping for mosquitos in Chase and Red Willow counties.

“We had negative results for West Nile virus from our trappings but are concerned that mosquito numbers seem to be increasing,” explains Melissa Propp, Surveillance Nurse. “Most people who contract West Nile virus don’t get sick but those who do can be severely ill.”

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, body aches and rash, in severe cases WNV can invade the brain and spinal cord leading to stiff neck, confusion, paralysis, coma and even death.

Propp offered the following tips to prevent mosquito bites:

- ✓ Limit time outside from dusk till midnight when Culex mosquitos, the primary carrier of WNV in Nebraska, are most active
- ✓ Wear pants and long-sleeves in the evening
- ✓ Repair all holes in screens
- ✓ Get rid of standing water that gives mosquitos a place to breed
- ✓ Be sure to use insect repellent with DEET and repeat every four (4) hours

More information on West Nile Virus may be found at our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov or by calling the McCook office at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street – one block north of Arby’s. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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