



Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Propp, RN, Surveillance Nurse 308-345-4223 nurse@swhealth.ne.gov

Mosquitoes in Red Willow County Test Positive for West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes at two separate trapping locations in Red Willow County have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first time WNV positive mosquitoes have been identified in the Southwest Nebraska Public Health district during the 2019 season.

“West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. It is important to continue prevention even as the weather is becoming cooler,” states Melissa Propp, RN, Surveillance Nurse at SWNPHD. “Use insect repellent which includes at least 30% DEET,” states Propp “DEET in repellent is the most effective prevention against getting bitten by a mosquito.”

Additional tips that will help prevent mosquito bites:

- ✓ Wear shoes, socks, long sleeve shirts and pants when mosquitoes are most active during dawn and dusk.
- ✓ Install or repair window and door screens.
- ✓ Empty standing water from containers such as gutters, buckets, pool covers, and tires.
- ✓ Aerate ponds or stock them with fish.
- ✓ Use larvicide such as mosquito dunks for water that cannot be drained.

Mosquitoes rest in dark, humid areas and typically lay their eggs near bodies of water. The use of larvicide to treat water is one method to reduce mosquitoes. Outdoor flying insect repellent may also be utilized to reduce the number of mosquitoes.

More information on West Nile Virus may be found at www.swhealth.ne.gov or by calling the health department at 308-345-4223. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is located at 404 West 10th Street – one block north of Arby’s in McCook, and at 501 Broadway – Moreland’s south entrance in Imperial.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You may also follow SWNPHD on Facebook and Twitter.

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