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Press Release
July 7, 2015

West Nile Virus found in Weber County Mosquitoes

(Ogden, UT) – Weber-Morgan health officials are urging Utahns to “Fight the Bite” after mosquitoes trapped near Riverdale tested positive for West Nile Virus.

“These are the first mosquitoes known to test positive in Utah this year,” says Amy Carter communicable disease nurse with the Weber-Morgan Health Department. “With the warm winter and rainy spring, we expect to see more mosquitos than usual. In order to prevent human cases, it’s important for each person to take precaution.”

The best precautions include:

- Using insect repellent that contains DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide).
- Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants from dusk to dawn.
- Remove standing water from around yards and homes.
- Make sure windows, doors and screens fit tightly without holes.

“The mosquitoes that carry the virus are most active between dusk and dawn,” Carter says. “It’s important to keep that in mind if you are going to be outside during these hours you should always have a container of mosquito repellent handy.”

Infected mosquitoes spread the virus when they bite humans, horses and birds. There is a vaccine for horses but no such preventive measure or treatment exists for humans.

West Nile Virus affects the central nervous system. Mild symptoms include fever, headache and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. These symptoms typically last a few days. Severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, vision loss and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks and neurological effects may be permanent.

People typically develop symptoms between three and 14 days after they are exposed. If you think you have symptoms of West Nile Virus, contact your physician.

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