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Weber-Morgan Health Department Announces First Human Case of West Nile Virus

(Ogden, UT) – An Ogden resident has tested positive for West Nile virus and remains hospitalized with a neuroinvasive form of the mosquito-borne disease.

Due to medical privacy laws, Weber-Morgan Health Department cannot release additional information about the individual. However, public health workers are urging residents to keep taking prevention measures to deter mosquito bites.

“With school starting and this late in the season, it’s easy to let your guard down but we need people to be mindful that West Nile Virus is part of our environment. As long as we have warm temperatures, the mosquitoes will keep breeding and biting,” says Amy Carter, communicable disease nurse with the Weber-Morgan Health Department.

Although only some mosquitoes carry WNV, there is no way for residents to tell which mosquitoes are infected. It is important to minimize exposure by taking the following steps:

- Use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent with DEET, permethrin, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus; follow package directions about application.
- After dusk, wear long sleeves and pants
- Drain standing water in yards (old tires, potted plant trays, pet dishes, toys, buckets, etc.).
- Keep roof gutters clear of debris.
- Clean and stock garden ponds with mosquito-eating fish or mosquito dunks.
- Ensure door and window screens are in good condition so mosquitoes cannot get inside.
- Keep weeds and tall grass cut short; adult mosquitoes look for these shady places to rest during the hot daylight hours.

WNV can cause mild to severe illness. Symptoms include fever, headache and body aches. More severe infections may include high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation,

coma, tremors and muscle weakness or convulsions. Less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop neuroinvasive disease, which can result in debilitating long-term complications or death. People over age 50 and people with weakened immune systems are at the highest risk of illness due to WNV, but anyone can become ill from the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV is not transmissible from person to person.

Infected people typically develop symptoms between 2 and 14 days after they are bitten. If you think you have West Nile Virus, contact your physician.

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