

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Possible West Nile Virus Case in Clark County

(Las Vegas, Nev., - July 22, 2004) – The Clark County Health District has received positive preliminary test results from the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory of the first Nevada acquired case of West Nile virus. Confirmatory test results are pending, and are expected within one to two weeks.

The affected person is a resident of Clark County with a recent travel history that includes a trip to a wilderness area in Nye County. However, no specific exposure location has yet been determined. The person experienced symptoms including meningitis (swelling of the brain), headache, fever and rash, which are consistent with the symptoms of West Nile virus.

Public health staff are trapping and testing mosquitoes near the person's residence and near the location of the trip to Nye County. No results are yet available.

"West Nile virus exposure is completely preventable," said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer. "I strongly urge people to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites," said Kwalick.

The following preventive actions are recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce individual risk of mosquito-borne illness:

- Apply an insect repellent containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) according to manufacturer's directions.
- Wear pants and long-sleeved shirts, when outdoors.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, notably at dusk (the first two hours after sunset) and dawn.
- Eliminate areas of standing water, including bird baths and un-maintained swimming pools, which support mosquito breeding.

(more)

- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens without tears or holes.
- Ensure that your sprinklers are properly maintained so that there is no pooling or run-off that accumulates.

For additional information on West Nile virus, visit the health district website at <http://www.cchd.org>.

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