

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Confirmed Nevada-Acquired Human West Nile Virus Case in Clark County** West Nile virus infected mosquitoes detected in three areas of county

(Las Vegas, Nev., - July 29, 2004) – The Clark County Health District has confirmed an earlier suspected human case of West Nile virus. The confirmatory testing was conducted by the California State Public Health laboratory in Richmond, a regional facility designated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for specialized viral testing.

The affected person is a resident of Clark County under the age of 50, who was hospitalized earlier in the month with symptoms including meningitis (swelling of the membrane surrounding the brain), headache, fever and rash. The person has been discharged, and has recovered from the illness.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Laboratory has confirmed that mosquitoes trapped by the health district at the affected individual's residence were infected with West Nile virus. These mosquitoes were trapped in zip code 89130, in the northern portion of the Las Vegas valley. Tests of mosquitoes trapped by the health district in a wilderness area of Nye County, where the individual recently camped, have come back preliminarily negative for West Nile virus (awaiting confirmation).

Mosquito testing conducted by Clark County Vector Control has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes in two other areas of the county: the southeastern Las Vegas valley, zip code 89122, and in northeastern Clark County, near Moapa Warm Springs.

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes, which acquire the virus by feeding on infected birds. The illness is not spread person to person. The health district strongly stresses the need for individual protective actions to avoid mosquito bites:

- Apply an insect repellent containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) according to manufacturer's directions.

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- 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, un-maintained swimming pools and sprinkler runoff, which support mosquito breeding.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens without tears or holes.

For additional information on West Nile virus, visit the health district website at <http://www.cchd.org>, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm> and the Clark County Vector Control website at <http://www.co.clark.nv.us/pubworks/neighborhood/bee.htm>. As an added resource, the health district has established a telephone information line at (702) 385-INFO (4636), which provides basic information on West Nile virus and telephone contact numbers for the public to report dead birds, mosquitoes, standing water, etc.

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