

## News Release

Contact: David Tonelli  
(702) 383-6320  
Jennifer Sizemore  
(702) 383-1225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **District to Increase Enforcement of Laws to Abate Stagnant Swimming Pools** Public help sought in reporting potential mosquito breeding areas to control West Nile spread

(Las Vegas, Nev., - August 6, 2004) - The Clark County Health District Environmental Health Division, in cooperation with Clark County Public Works/Vector Control, is increasing enforcement of public health laws concerning the abatement of improperly-maintained and abandoned swimming pools capable of contributing to the spread of West Nile virus.

Vector control officials have recently encountered difficulty in gaining the permission of some property owners, property management companies and mortgage companies to treat stagnant pool water with larvicide pellets, which inhibit the development of mosquito larvae. Under applicable public health statutes (NRS 202, NRS 439 and NRS 441A), uncooperative parties will be issued a formal notice to abate the public health nuisance within 24 hours. In extreme cases, the health district will seek injunctive relief through district courts to allow treatment of the pool without owner permission.

Health and vector control officials are soliciting help from the public in locating improperly-maintained and abandoned swimming pools. Reports may be filed via telephone with Clark County Vector Control at (702) 455-7543.

The Clark County Health District Office of Epidemiology is investigating two additional probable human cases of West Nile virus infection. The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory performed preliminary testing and has forwarded the specimens to a regionally-designated laboratory in California for confirmatory testing. Results are expected within one week. Both of these unrelated cases are in Clark County residents over the age of 50. One individual is currently hospitalized, while the other sought medical care, but has not been hospitalized.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Laboratory has confirmed that

(more)

mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus have been observed in the following area ZIP codes: 89130 and 89122 (Las Vegas), 89021 (Logandale), 89049 (Tonopah), and in a rural area 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 continues to strongly stress the need for protective actions to avoid mosquito bites:

- 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, 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.accessclarkcounty.com/pubworks/Neighborhood/Bee.htm>.

###