

West Nile Virus - Public Health Update #3

Two additional human West Nile virus cases confirmed; additional mosquitoes test positive

August 20, 2004

The Clark County Health District has confirmed two additional human cases of West Nile virus in county residents, raising the total number of confirmed human cases in 2004 to four. In addition, three new probable human West Nile virus cases from Clark County have been identified this week, for a current total of nine probable cases.

2004 Human West Nile Virus Cases in Clark County, Nevada

Total Confirmed	Current Probable Cases*
4	9

** The term "probable cases" describes patients with positive preliminary test results, plus symptoms and history compatible with West Nile virus infection.*

Details on the four confirmed human cases:

- Two people are over age 50; two people are under age 50
- All four people suffered meningitis and/or encephalitis (severe symptoms)
- Two people are currently hospitalized
- Two people were hospitalized and released

Details on the nine probable human cases:

- Six people are over age 50; three people are under age 50
- Seven of nine people suffered meningitis and/or encephalitis (severe symptoms)
- Three people are currently hospitalized
- Three people were hospitalized and released
- Three people sought medical care only (visited emergency room or doctor)

Testing conducted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Laboratory has confirmed mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus in the following area ZIP

(more)

codes: 89107, 89122, 89128 and 89130 (Las Vegas); 89014 (Arroyo Grande Sports Complex, Henderson); 89021 (Logandale); 89049 (Tonopah), and in a rural area near Moapa Warm Springs.

The Clark County Health District Environmental Health Division, in cooperation with Clark County Public Works/Vector Control, continues to enforce public health laws regarding the abatement of improperly maintained swimming pools capable of supporting mosquito breeding. Over 100 stagnant, swamp-like swimming pools in the Las Vegas valley have been treated with larvicide pellets, which inhibit the development of mosquito larvae. Reports of stagnant swimming pools may be filed via telephone with Clark County Public Works/Vector Control at (702) 455-7543.

The health district will pursue court action to enter the properties and treat the pools of uncooperative or unresponsive homeowners, property management companies, etc. Legal notices to abate public health nuisances have been served to 18 parties. The health district gained immediate cooperation after serving the notices. No court action has been necessary.

The Clark County Health District continues to strongly stress the need for area residents to take protective action 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.

As needed, updates on West Nile virus case counts will be posted Friday mornings to the health district website at <http://www.cchd.org>. The updates will be available in the CCHD news section of the main page and on the newsroom/press releases page.

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