



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Season's first West Nile virus case reported in Clark County

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting the first case of West Nile virus in a Clark County resident. The patient, an 84 year old male, was diagnosed with the more serious, neuroinvasive form of the illness and required hospitalization but is recovering.

The health district identified the county's first West Nile virus positive mosquitoes in early August and this case serves as another reminder of the importance of taking precautions against mosquito bites. The 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. Many people with the virus will have no symptoms or very mild clinical symptoms of illness. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest stomach, and back. In some cases the virus can cause severe illness and even death. In 2010, no human cases of West Nile virus were reported in Clark County.

The health district recommends the following to prevent mosquito bites and to eliminate breeding sources:

- Apply an insect repellent containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) according to manufacturer's directions. *Repellents containing picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus also have some efficacy. However, DEET is the best-studied and most-effective repellent available.*
- 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, "green" swimming pools and sprinkler runoff, which support mosquito breeding.

The health district is no longer treating breeding sources on private properties, such as green pools. Residents can now report green swimming pools and standing or stagnant water sources to local code enforcement agencies. Contact information for local jurisdictions' code enforcement is available on the health district website at:

<http://southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/forms/mosquito.php>.

Updated information about the Southern Nevada Health District can be found on Facebook www.facebook.com/SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict, on YouTube www.youtube.com/SNHealthDistrict or Twitter : www.twitter.com/SNHDinfo.