



Southeastern Idaho Public Health

For Immediate Release
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Public Health Officials Confirm Positive Mosquito Pool in Power County

Southeastern Idaho Public Health (SIPH) officials have confirmed West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito pool in Power County. Other positive mosquito pools in Idaho have been reported in Canyon, Elmore, Gem, and Payette counties. No WNV human cases have been reported.

West Nile is a potentially serious illness that is usually spread to animals and humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms, more severe illness may occur. People with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash typically occurring 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

To reduce the risk for WNV, the following precautions should be taken:

- When outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET or Picaridin (apply it according to manufacturers' instructions.) Parents are advised not to apply repellent that contains more than 10 percent DEET on their children. In addition, certain products which contain permethrin are recommended for use on clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear. Follow the directions on the package.
- Use insect repellent and wear long sleeves, pants, and loose-fitting clothing at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active and feeding. If possible, consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure to have good screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by draining standing water from flowerpots, buckets, and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths and feeding troughs, at least twice a week. Drill holes in tire swings or old tires so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty or on their sides when not in use.
- Don't over-irrigate your lawns, gardens, or pastures.

For more information on WNV, contact SIPH's Epidemiologist, Jeff Doerr, at 478-6321 or visit SIPH's website at www.siphidaho.org or <http://westnile.idaho.gov>.

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