

News Release

August 6, 2019

West Nile Virus Found in Local Mosquitoes

ST. GEORGE, UT – The Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD) is confirming that West Nile virus has been found in mosquitoes located in Washington County. The positive test results were obtained by the Southwest Utah Mosquito Abatement & Control District.

“West Nile virus can be spread to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito,” says Cassidy Peterson, SWUPHD Epidemiologist. “We hope that people will stay vigilant and protect themselves to prevent the possibility of human infection.”

While most people infected by West Nile virus won't notice any symptoms, some people may experience flu-like symptoms or worse, especially the elderly or people with poor immune systems. The most serious cases can lead to hospitalization, disability, or death. The best way to prevent West Nile virus is to prevent mosquito bites by doing the following:

- Use mosquito repellent when outdoors from dusk to dawn (when mosquitoes are most active). Adults and children older than 2 months of age can safely use repellents that contain up to 30% DEET.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and pants while outdoors.
- Remove any puddles or standing water around your home where mosquitoes can breed, including birdbaths, wading pools, old tires, buckets, and plant containers.
- Report bodies of stagnant water in Washington County to the Southwest Utah Mosquito Abatement & Control District (435-627-0076).

Visit swuhealth.org/mosquito for more information.

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The mission of the Southwest Utah Public Health Department is to protect the community's health through the promotion of wellness and the prevention of disease. Visit our website at www.swuhealth.org