



MEDIA RELEASE

First Human West Nile Virus Case Reported in Utah County

Case involves neuroinvasive illness; residents urged to prevent mosquito bites

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Provo, UT)—The Utah County Health Department (UCHD) has been notified of Utah County's first confirmed human case of West Nile virus (WNV) this season. The case involves neuroinvasive disease, the more serious form of WNV illness. To protect the individual's privacy, no additional identifying information will be released.

"This case is an important reminder that West Nile virus is present in our community and can cause serious illness," said Aislynn Tolman-Hill. "Residents can reduce their risk by using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and removing standing water around their homes."

UCHD and Utah County Mosquito Abatement are reviewing available surveillance information and conducting additional assessment in the area associated with the case. Mosquito-control activities are guided by surveillance findings, mosquito activity, weather, and established intervention thresholds.

West Nile Virus Symptoms

Most people infected with WNV do not develop symptoms. About one in five develop a fever or other symptoms, which may include headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Neuroinvasive illness is rare but can be severe and may require hospitalization.

Less than 1% of people who are infected develop neuroinvasive disease, such as meningitis, encephalitis, or acute flaccid myelitis. Warning signs can include high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, confusion, seizures, tremors, or muscle weakness. Seek medical care promptly for severe or concerning symptoms.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus are most active during dawn and dusk. Reduce the risk of bites by using insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, especially at dawn and dusk; wearing long sleeves and pants when possible; and making sure window and door screens are intact to keep mosquitoes outside.

Help Identify Problem Areas

Residents who notice heavy mosquito activity or standing water that cannot be eliminated are encouraged to report it to Utah County Mosquito Abatement. These reports help field crews locate and treat hidden breeding sites before mosquito populations increase.

Mosquito Control and More Information

Current mosquito trap counts, spray schedules, treatment maps, educational resources, and the online service request form are available at: **health.utahcounty.gov/mosquito-abatement**

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