

West Nile Virus Found in Utah County Mosquito Pool

Residents Encouraged to Prevent Exposure with the D's of Mosquito Prevention

(Utah County) -- Utah County Health Department's Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) has confirmed that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been found in a Utah County mosquito pool* of *Culex Tarsalis* mosquitoes, in the South Provo/North Springville (Ironton) area. Public health officials are encouraging individuals to take precautionary measures to avoid WNV exposure. Larvicide treatment was done in the area on August 8, via drone. Utah County treated the area will ULV spraying via truck on August 9. Aerial spraying must be postponed due to the Presidential visit.

The Utah County Health Department (UCHD) MAD sets traps each week throughout the county to monitor the mosquito population. Mosquitoes (*Culex* genre) that have the potential of carrying West Nile Virus and other arboviral viruses (Western Equine Encephalitis or Saint Louis Encephalitis) are separated and tested to see if these viruses are present. To date the Utah County MAD has tested 1,239 pools of mosquitoes with this being the first positive pool detected. "With the extreme high-water we have had this Spring, this has been a massive mosquito year, as we were expecting, the second highest in the last 15 years," says MAD Director, Dan Miller. The MAD acquired new equipment allowing for testing of mosquito pools of a much higher rate. Additional resources to make mosquito abatement more effective include the purchase of drones.

"While Utah County does not currently have any confirmed human or equine cases of West Nile Virus, this is an important reminder of the importance of taking steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes," says Eric Edwards, Executive Director of UCHD.

Protect yourself with the Mosquito Prevention "Ds":

- DRAIN standing water
- DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outside
- DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside
- DEFEND yourself by using insect repellent with DEET
- DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition
- DISTRICT personnel are available to address mosquito concerns. Call 801-851-7637 or fill out a [service request form](#) for more information. You may also visit the [mosquito abatement website](#) for more information.

WNV can cause mild to severe illness and many people may not even know they have been infected. It is estimated that less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop a severe infection, which can result in debilitating long-term complications or death. Symptoms of WNV appear within 3 to 14 days and include fever, headache, and body aches. Severe infections may include high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, and convulsions.

*"Mosquito pool" is the term used for a group of mosquitoes caught and tested out of a single trap.

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