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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED IN UTAH COUNTY**

**Provo, Utah** – Utah County Health Department (UCHD) reports the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Utah County for 2024. The patient is a female resident of Utah County and was diagnosed with West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease (WNND). To protect privacy and confidentiality, UCHD will not release personal information about the patient

“We are reporting the first human case of West Nile Virus in a human of the 2024 season. West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans by mosquito bite,” said Eric Edwards, UCHD Executive Director. “People should take extra caution when enjoying outdoor activities. Follow the Ds to avoid mosquito bites.”

- **DRAIN:** Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs
- **DAWN and DUSK:** Limit your time outdoors during these times when mosquitos are most active. are times to avoid being outside
- **DEET:** Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA-approved repellents and follow instructions
- **DRESS:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing when outdoors
- **DOOR:** Door and window screens should be in good working condition

WNV is a disease that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes can become infected when they feed on the blood of infected birds. The infected mosquitoes can then transmit WNV to humans and animals. Severe WNV infections can cause neurologic complications such as encephalitis. Milder symptoms include fever, headache, and muscle aches. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV. For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/index.html> or <https://health.utahcounty.gov/mosquito-abatement/>

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