



MEDIA RELEASE



Five Probable Human Cases of West Nile Virus Reported in Utah County

Four neuroinvasive cases among first confirmed locally this season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Provo, UT)—Utah County Health Department (UCHD) has confirmed five probable human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) in Utah County. Of these, four are neuroinvasive cases, the more serious illness. Between the high number of positive mosquito pools and multiple human cases with symptoms, it is clear that West Nile virus is actively present and being detected across Utah County. To help protect the community, Utah County Mosquito Abatement crews are conducting additional assessments and applying targeted treatments in the neighborhoods where these cases were identified. These enhanced efforts are intended to reduce mosquito populations and lower the risk of further transmission.

West Nile Virus Symptoms

Most people infected with WNV do not develop symptoms. However, about one in five people develop symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Swollen lymph nodes or skin rash

In rare cases, the virus becomes neuroinvasive, leading to more serious conditions such as meningitis, encephalitis, or paralysis. These symptoms may include high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, seizures, or muscle weakness. Anyone experiencing symptoms should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

With West Nile virus confirmed in both mosquito pools and human cases, it is critical that residents take action now to avoid mosquito bites. UCHD strongly urges the following precautions:

- Always use insect repellent when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus are most effective.
- Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Eliminate standing water around your home, as mosquitoes can breed in just a few days in small containers like buckets, bird baths, flowerpots, or clogged gutters.
- Keep doors and windows screened and repair any holes or tears.
- Be extra cautious if you are older or immunocompromised, as you are at higher risk for severe illness.

More Information

Residents can find mosquito trap counts, spraying schedules, and additional prevention tips at:

<https://health.utahcounty.gov/mosquito-abatement/>

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