



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Detected in Weld County Mosquito Traps

Weld County, CO – One pool of mosquitoes collected from traps set during the first week of July has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Although the risk of WNV is currently low, the hotter days in July and August create perfect conditions for the Culex mosquito and WNV. Currently there are no human cases of WNV in Weld County and only one case in Colorado. Last year, there were 27 human cases in Weld County. The county contracts mosquito trapping and testing in 3 zones, which includes the Greeley/Evans area, the Johnstown/Milliken/Platteville area, and the Fort Lupton/Dacono/Firestone area. “It’s best to avoid getting mosquito bites,” said Mark E. Wallace, MD, MPH, Executive Director of the Weld County Health Department. “Although most people who get WNV will fully recover, a few people may suffer long lasting neurological damage.”

West Nile virus symptoms can appear 3 to 14 days after an infection. Initial symptoms can include fever, headache, nausea and vomiting, muscle aches and weakness and rash, but most infected people don’t exhibit any symptoms. If a person develops symptoms, he or she should see a doctor immediately. There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection, and less than one percent of infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, neurological illness.

Health officials recommend following the four “D’s” to prevent mosquito bites:

DRAIN standing water around your house weekly. Remember to drain water from tires, cans, flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, toys and puddles.

DUSK and **DAWN** are when mosquitoes are most active. Limit outdoor activities and take precautions to prevent mosquito bites during these times.

DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellents. Other repellents containing picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol are also be effective against mosquitoes. Always follow label instructions carefully.

DRESS in long sleeves and pants in areas where mosquitoes are active.

For more information about the preventing mosquito bites, visit: www.weldgov.com

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