

Public Health

Public Health Advisory: West Nile Virus (WNV)

July 30, 2009—Hermiston—Umatilla County Public Health (UCPH) has confirmed 11 positive mosquito pool tests from the western area of Umatilla County. There still have been no human or animal cases reported.

The West Umatilla Vector Control District (WUVCD) Board of Trustees is very concerned about the level of virus activity throughout the county, and are urging residents of all ages to take the necessary steps to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes. "As long as there are areas of water where mosquitoes can breed and temperatures stay warm, the human risk of infection will remain high." said Genni Lehnert, administrator, Umatilla County Public Health.

"Vector species mosquitoes typically hit peak populations in July and August" said Ron Montgomery, manager of WUVCD. "Optimal condition for West Nile virus amplification in the environment will continue for 5 to 6 more weeks".

WNV is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. While most infections are mild, the more serious infections can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and/or meningitis (inflammation of the brain's lining), loss of vision, paralysis, coma, tremors, convulsions, and death.


Symptoms of WNV include fever, extreme fatigue, headache, body aches, and can occasionally include skin rashes and swollen lymph nodes. Generally, symptoms appear 3 to 14 days after being bitten by a mosquito. Persons who experience these symptoms should consult with their doctors or local community health clinics. There is no treatment, cure, or human vaccination for WNV; health care providers can only treat the symptoms to help patients feel better and possibly recover more quickly.

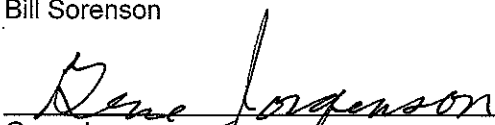
Evening mosquito control operations will continue based on monitoring results. Residents can expect to see an increase in mosquito control operations based on the positive samples. "Ultra Low Volume (ULV) applications of insecticides from truck mounted sprayers will be used to reduce mosquito populations" said Montgomery. These applications will typically be made after sunset when mosquitoes are most active. All applicators are licensed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Additional areas may be treated by helicopter or fixed wing aircraft.


The West Umatilla Vector Control Board urges residents to heed their warning and take action to protect themselves by following ALL of the four Ds, which are:

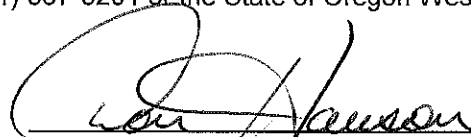
- DEET - use DEET-enhanced insect repellent or alternative.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants.
- Dusk to dawn - avoid the outdoors.
- Drain standing water outside the home.

For more information about WNV, please visit the West Umatilla Vector Control website at www.wuvcd.com. To ask specific questions, call the West Umatilla Vector Control at (541) 567-5201 or the State of Oregon West Nile Virus Hotline at 1 (866) 703-INFO.

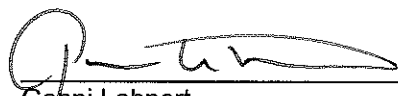

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