



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

Davis County's First Positive West Nile Virus Mosquito Pools Found

(Farmington, Utah) – County health and mosquito abatement officials announce the presence of West Nile virus in two mosquito pools in Davis County. The Unified State Laboratories: Public Health in Taylorsville confirmed the tests for the mosquito pools.

Gary Hatch, district manager for the Mosquito Abatement District-Davis, said, "Each week we trap mosquitoes from numerous locations throughout Davis County so that we can track the presence of West Nile virus here. Now that we've got positive tests from two mosquito pools, we're stepping up the amount of spraying throughout the county beyond the already aggressive efforts that we've done so far this season." The two pools testing positive are in west Kaysville and west Layton, he said.

According to Davis County Health Department's director, Lewis Garrett, "These positives indicate the threat of West Nile virus continues throughout the state including Davis County." He encourages everyone to lessen the chances of being bitten by a mosquito infected with West Nile virus by using a DEET-based mosquito repellent when outdoors between dusk and dawn as well as wearing long sleeves and long pants during those prime mosquito-feeding times.

"A majority of the people infected with West Nile virus will experience very mild or no symptoms at all," said Garrett. "About 20% of those infected will develop a flu-like illness

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known as West Nile fever.” A much smaller percentage of infected people will get a more severe form of the disease that is characterized by severe headache, stiff neck, muscle weakness, and confusion or disorientation, he continued. “In rare cases, West Nile virus can be fatal.”

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publicizes six tips to help prevent the spread of West Nile virus,” Garrett said.

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin when you go outdoors. The most effective repellents contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide). The more DEET a repellent contains, the longer time it gives protection from mosquito bites, up to 35% for adults and children over 12 years old. The CDC also has approved repellent containing picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus for effective protection against WNV.
- Use care in applying repellent to children: don’t put repellent on their hands, and be careful to avoid their mouths and eyes. Products containing 10% or less DEET are the most appropriate for children aged 2 months – 12 years.
- Whenever possible, wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants, and socks while outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Consider staying indoors from dusk until dawn, which is peak mosquito biting time. Avoid activities in areas where mosquitoes are plentiful.
- Fix or install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.

“For more information on how to ‘Fight The Bite’, check out the Davis County Health Department’s West Nile virus website at <http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/health>,” said Garrett. The mosquito abatement district’s web site is <http://www.davismosquito.org> and questions can be called into (801) 544-3736, Hatch added.

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