



1020 Washington St. N, Twin Falls, Idaho
208-737-5900 www.phd5.idaho.gov

August 28, 2013

PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Jensen, Public Health Nurse, 737-5969

Public Health-First Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in South Central Idaho

TWIN FALLS- The first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in south central Idaho has been reported, prompting health officials to remind people to “Fight the Bite” of mosquitoes.

“The adult male, in his forties, is recovering at home and was not hospitalized. Due to the nature of his work and the fact that he travels throughout the state, it is very difficult to pinpoint exactly where he was bitten by an infected mosquito,” said Logan Hudson, SCPHD nurse. “This is a great reminder to the public that West Nile cases typically peak in mid-August or early September, just in time for students returning to school, early hunting season, and other late summer outdoor activities, so everyone should take extra precautions.”

Four out of five people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms. However, people with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. Symptoms typically occur 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

Public Health officials continue to remind individuals to take personal responsibility to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites. Remember to:

DRAIN any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

AVOID the outdoors at dawn and dusk.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

DEFEND yourself by using a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET (follow label directions).

MAKE SURE door and window screens are in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

If a person is experiencing symptoms of West Nile, they should contact their local health care provider. Individuals may also obtain information by visiting www.phd5.idaho.gov or www.cdc.gov/westnile.

###