

August 22, 2018

First human case of West Nile Virus found in Lincoln County

LINCOLN COUNTY – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) officials confirm the first reported human case of West Nile virus was discovered late yesterday in Lincoln County. The patient is an adult male, 39 years old, and was not hospitalized.

Typical symptoms of the virus include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. People over 50 years old, with medical conditions, are at greater risk for serious illness from the virus. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

“We focus on prevention because there is no specific treatment for the virus,” said Christi Dawson-Skuza, SCPHD epidemiologist. “Health care providers can only try to ease symptoms because there is no vaccine or antiviral treatments available.”

Public Health officials remind residents to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites by:

- Use insect repellents with an EPA-registered active ingredient like DEET, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitos carrying the virus are most active.
- Wear loose-fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants.
- Install screens on all windows and doors.
- Check for, and drain, any standing water around your home every three to six days- including clogged rain gutters, pools, bird baths and other outside water features.

In July, the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFPCAD) issued a joint press release with the SCPHD warning that mosquitoes carrying the virus were found in Gooding County and it was likely these insects were also carrying the virus in surrounding areas.

More information is available on our website at:

https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/WestNile/Index.htm?no_redirect=true

And on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>

For other health concerns, please visit phd5.idaho.gov or call the Public Health Hotline 866-450-3594.