

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Found East of Twin Falls

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – West Nile virus was recently found in mosquitoes east of Twin Falls. The Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) discovered the mosquitoes carrying the virus. South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) joins TFCPAD in warning residents to act now to avoid catching the disease.

“Finding West Nile virus in local mosquitoes is an important reminder that mosquito season is in full swing,” said Tanner Henke, Twin Falls County Pest Abatement Operations Supervisor. “The good news is there are simple steps everyone can take to prevent exposure. Dump standing water around your home, use insect repellent, and avoid mosquito bites whenever possible.”

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

- Using insect repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient like DEET, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitos carrying the virus are most active.
- Wearing loose-fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants.
- Installing screens on all windows and doors.
- Checking for, and draining, any standing water around your home every three to six days. This includes clogged rain gutters, pools, bird baths, old tires and other outside water features.

“Most people who are infected with West Nile virus won't become seriously ill, but some can develop severe complications,” said Jacob Ward, SCPHD Epidemiology Program Manager. “Taking a few preventive steps now can help protect you and your family throughout the rest of mosquito season.”

Typical symptoms of the virus include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. People over 50 years old with serious medical conditions are at greater risk for serious illness from the virus. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system. Currently, there have been no human cases of West Nile virus reported this summer across SCPHD's eight county region.

More information on mosquito abatement is available on the TFCPAD website at: tfcpad.org/mosquito

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