



# Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

---

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

## NEWS RELEASE

August 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Propp, RN, Surveillance Nurse 308-345-4223 [nurse@swhealth.ne.gov](mailto:nurse@swhealth.ne.gov)

### **Mosquitoes in Chase County Test Positive for West Nile Virus**

Mosquitoes in Chase County have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) according to Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. This follows confirmed positive mosquitoes found in Red Willow County two weeks ago.

“West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans when an infected female mosquito bites them,” states Melissa Propp, RN, Surveillance Nurse at SWNPHD. “There is no cure for West Nile Virus which makes it important to prevent getting bitten.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Less than 1% of people who are infected with WNV will develop a serious illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues). These symptoms can include fever, vomiting, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, or paralysis.
- About 1 in 5 people who are infected with WNV will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.
- People with medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease are also at greater risk for serious illness with the West Nile Virus.

“Use insect repellent which includes at least 30% DEET,” states Propp. “DEET in repellent is the most effective prevention to getting bitten by a mosquito.”

More information on West Nile Virus may be found at the web site [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov). Or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223, Imperial office at 308-882-4269. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street – one block north of Arby’s in McCook or 501 Broadway – south entrance in Imperial.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You may also follow SWNPHD on Facebook and Twitter.

####