



For Immediate Release

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ADAMS AND WEBSTER COUNTY MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE

The South Heartland District Health Department reports that collections of mosquitoes trapped in Webster County on August 21 and in Adams County on August 28, 2018, have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

“Even though we are nearing the end of summer, mosquitoes have not disappeared for the season,” said Jessica Warner, disease surveillance coordinator at South Heartland. “We all need to continue to take precautions against mosquito bites.”

Last season (2017), 68 Nebraskans were reported to have West Nile disease. This year to date, 57 cases have been reported by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, but none from the South Heartland Health District (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties).

According to health director Dr. Michele Bever, “West Nile Virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito and mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn.”

“The best way to fight back is to use an insect repellent containing DEET any time you will be outside,” she said.

Although symptoms of West Nile illness are usually mild, the symptoms may be severe, may cause permanent neurological damage, and may result in death.

South Heartland District Health Department recommends that people remember and practice the four D’s of West Nile Virus illness prevention:

- **Dusk to dawn** - Avoid being outside between when mosquitoes are most active
- **DEET** – Use insect repellent containing DEET
- **Dress appropriately** - in long pants, socks and long sleeves when you are outdoors
- **Drain** – frequently drain containers and other standing or stagnant water around your home to disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes.

Dr. Bever encourages anyone who would like further information, brochures or to schedule a presentation on West Nile Virus to contact South Heartland District Health Department 402-462-6211 or Toll Free at 1-877-238-7595.

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