



Media Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Pool Detected in Yakima County

Yakima, WA- The Yakima Health District received a report from Washington State Department of Health Public Health Laboratories of a mosquito pool that tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the first West Nile virus-positive mosquito pool reported in Washington this year. The West Nile virus positive mosquito pool was collected from the Sunnyside unit of the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area. While so far this year, there have been no human or animal infections of West Nile virus reported in Washington, it is crucial to follow preventative measures to avoid West Nile virus.

West Nile virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. To prevent West Nile virus, avoid being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellent, following label instructions, when spending time outdoors or in areas where mosquitoes might be.
- Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants when outside, particularly at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Take steps to control mosquitoes indoors and outdoors:
 - Use tight-fitting screens on windows and doors.
 - Stop mosquitoes from laying eggs by eliminating mosquito breeding sites, which consist of any item or place with standing water. Examples include buckets, rain gutters, old tires, bird baths, ponds, or anywhere water collects. Empty, cover, turn over, or throw out items that hold water to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.

Most people – 8 out of 10– infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. Those who develop symptoms experience a fever and other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. In some cases, West Nile virus can cause severe disease. About 1 in 150 people who are infected develop a severe illness affecting the central nervous system that results in encephalitis or meningitis. People over the age of 60 and people with certain conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, or kidney disease, have a greater risk for severe illness. If individuals experience symptoms of West Nile virus, they should contact their

healthcare provider.

There is a vaccine for horses to prevent against West Nile virus infection; speak with your veterinarian to learn more. While there is no vaccine to prevent West Nile virus infection in people, individuals can reduce their risk of infection with West Nile virus by eliminating mosquito habitat and protecting themselves from mosquito bites.

Additional Information

[West Nile Virus | Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Mosquitoes | Washington State Department of Health](#)

[West Nile Virus | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Preventing West Nile Virus | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[West Nile Virus: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment](#)

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