

Umatilla County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

October 18, 2006

For Immediate Release

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Human Case of West Nile Virus Detected in Umatilla County

Pendleton, Ore. -- Oregon Department of Health has confirmed a human case of West Nile Virus in a resident of Umatilla County. This persons was in southern Idaho during the time of exposure where there have been many case reported this year. He is recuperating at home at this time.

Genni Lehnert, Administrator for Umatilla County Public Health advised "It is likely that the virus was contracted while in Southern Idaho however, it is difficult to confirm actual infection location now that the virus has been detected in Umatilla County." A Brewers Black Bird tested positive for West Nile last week.

Lehnert stated "It is important to remember that most people exposed to the virus will not get sick or will have only mild flu-like symptoms, however more severe complications are possible." Most infections are mild and symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches, often with skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infection may be marked by headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death.

Ron Mongomery, Manager for the Umatilla West Vector District stated "As the nights are getting cooler mosquitos are going to attempt to get into houses. Be sure that windows have screens that fit tightly and are in good repair." Other suggestions to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes and to prevent the transmission of WNV include;

- Get rid of old tires and other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET or Picaridin, making sure to follow the directions on the container. Oil of lemon eucalyptus, a plant-based repellent, is registered with EPA and is found to provide similar protection as repellents.
- Be sure screen doors and windows are in good repair.

The State of Oregon has set up a West Nile Virus Information line. For more information please call 1-866-703-INFO.

For more information on the West Nile, visit the following web sites:

West Umatilla Vector Control District

<http://www.wuvcd.org>

Umatilla County Public Health Division

<http://www.co.umatilla.or.us/westnile.htm>

Oregon Department of Human Services -

<http://gov.oregon.gov/>

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

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