



For Immediate Release

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MORE ADAMS COUNTY MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE

The South Heartland District Health Department reports that a collection of mosquitoes trapped in Adams County on September 12, 2017, has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

This is the second report of WNV-positive mosquitoes in Adams County in 2017. The first report was for mosquitoes collected in Adams County on August 29. The health department previously reported WNV-positive mosquitoes trapped in Webster County on July 25.

“Even though we are nearing the end of September, 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 (2016), 95 Nebraskans were reported to have West Nile disease. This year, 32 cases have been reported by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, including one from the South Heartland district.

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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