



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Michele Bever, PhD, MPH, Executive Director
Jim Morgan, Public Health Risk Coordinator
402-462-6211 or toll free at 1-877-238-7595

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WEBSTER COUNTY MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE

Hastings, Nebraska - The South Heartland District Health Department reports that collections of mosquitoes trapped in Webster County on September 4, 2019, have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

“Mosquitoes continue to be a concern as we transition from summer to fall,” said Jim Morgan, public health risk coordinator at South Heartland. “We all need to continue to take precautions against mosquito bites.”

In 2018, 251 Nebraskans were reported to have West Nile disease and there were 12 deaths attributable to West Nile virus. This year to date, 15 clinical cases, including one death, have been reported by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, but none from the South Heartland Health District region of 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.

Symptoms of West Nile illness are usually mild, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. However, the symptoms may be more severe, sometimes causing permanent neurological damage, and may result in death.

South Heartland District Health Department recommends that people avoid being outside from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active and to protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing lightweight protective clothing and by using an insect repellent containing DEET, IR3535, Oil of Eucalyptus or Picaridin.

Mr. Morgan encourages residents to frequently drain containers and other standing or stagnant water around their homes to disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes.

For more information, visit www.southheartlandhealth.org or call 1-877-238-7595.

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