



# County of Malheur

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1108 S.W. 4th Street • Ontario, OR 97914 • (541) 889-7279

### **PRESUMPTIVE CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS**

AUGUST 3, 2007

Contact: Penny Walters: 541-889-7279

The Malheur County Health Department has received a report of a presumptive case of West Nile Virus on a Malheur County Resident. Blood samples will undergo confirmatory tests at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory. The patient is recovering at home.

With increasing numbers of mosquito pools testing positive in Idaho, it is not surprising now to have a presumptive human WNV case, according to Penny Walters, Administrator of the Malheur County Health Department.

All Malheur County residents are advised to take precautions to avoid getting mosquito bites--especially while spending time outdoors in these remaining months of summer.

There are five steps people can take to avoid mosquito bites: Screen doors and windows tightly. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes. · Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts and other protective clothing when outside. · Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding such as gutters, birdbaths and old tires. · Avoid playing or working outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active. · Use mosquito repellent, preferably one that contains DEET, picardin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow label directions carefully. Never apply DEET directly to children or put it on children's hands. Apply repellent first to your own hands and then onto the child.

While only 1 in 150 people who are infected will become seriously ill, those age 50 and older are at greater risk of severe illness. Individuals, who develop fever along with headache, stiff neck, or confusion, are encouraged to see their medical care provider. Horses are also at risk for WNV, but can be vaccinated. Horse owners are encouraged to contact their local veterinarian and ask about available vaccines.

More information:

Oregon State WNV hotline in English & Spanish (866-703-4636)

Oregon State Public Health Division Web Site:  
<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml>

Centers for Disease Control Web Site: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)