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TO: Grant County Media

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More West Nile Virus Identified in Grant County

GRANT COUNTY, WA –Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reported that additional mosquito samples from Grant County have tested positive for West Nile virus. **So far this season, WNV has been identified in 13 mosquito samples collected primarily from the greater Moses Lake area by Grant County Mosquito Control District #1. One of the positive samples, however, came from the Town of Wilson Creek, which is the first detection of WNV in that area since surveillance started there in 2014.** There is currently no active surveillance for WNV in other parts of Grant county, however, based on data from surrounding counties, this mosquito-borne virus is likely present throughout our region.

Statewide this year, WNV infections have been reported in 6 horses, one bird and 28 mosquito samples. Additional [information and maps of current WNV activity](#) can be found on the DOH website.

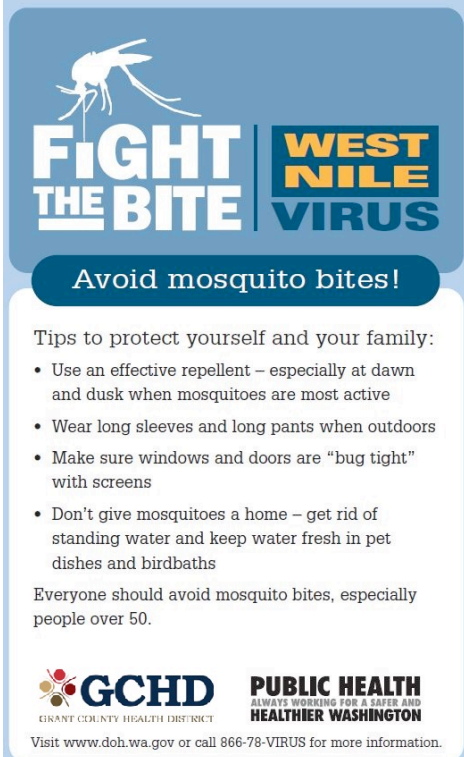
There have not been any human or other animal cases reported in Grant County this year, however, detection of WNV in the mosquito population means there is a potential for the spread of the virus to humans and other vulnerable species. “West Nile virus has been found in Grant County for over a decade, so this is not a new problem for us. It is still important that everyone continue taking steps to prevent mosquito bites”, said Amber McCoy, Lead Environmental Health Specialist at Grant County Health District.

Most people infected with WNV do not get sick. About one in five will develop mild symptoms such as fever, headache/body aches and other symptoms that go away without medical treatment. For a small number of people, WNV can lead to permanent neurologic effects or death. People over age 60 and those with certain medical conditions are most at risk of severe disease. Contact your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of a possible WNV, especially if you recently had mosquito bites.

It is important to protect yourself by avoiding mosquitoes.

Take these steps to prevent mosquito bites and reduce the places where mosquitoes breed around your home:

- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are the most active.
- Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and a hat when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands and other areas with shallow, stagnant water.




FIght THE BITE | WEST NILE VIRUS

Avoid mosquito bites!

Tips to protect yourself and your family:

- Use an effective repellent – especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- Wear long sleeves and long pants when outdoors
- Make sure windows and doors are “bug tight” with screens
- Don’t give mosquitoes a home – get rid of standing water and keep water fresh in pet dishes and birdbaths

Everyone should avoid mosquito bites, especially people over 50.

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Visit www.doh.wa.gov or call 866-78-VIRUS for more information.

- Use mosquito repellent. Read the label and carefully follow instructions. Take special care when using repellent on children.
- Make sure windows and doors are “bug tight” and repair or replace screens as needed.
- Eliminate mosquito-breeding areas around your home by emptying or discarding anything that holds standing water.

Horses are also vulnerable to WNV disease and many of those infected die, or must be euthanized. Horse owners are urged to vaccinate their horses and keep those vaccinations up to date. There is no human vaccine to protect against WNV.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit: [WA-Department of Health](#)

Consultation

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