



PSA: Mosquitoes Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus



Fallon Reservation – The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) are reminding residents to ***take necessary precautions against mosquito bites when going outdoors and take active measures to reduce mosquito breeding around your home.*** Our routine surveillance (collecting and testing mosquitos) has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the area mosquito population this year.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is an infection spread by mosquitoes, and in some cases, can cause serious illness. Most people will not develop symptoms if infected with WNV, but some individuals – particularly the elderly or those with weakened immune systems – may experience flu-like symptoms.

Most mosquitos seek out damp, shady areas where they can find protection from the sun and a source of water to lay their eggs. They are most active early in the morning and in the evenings (dusk to dawn). Mosquitos lay their eggs on water or damp soil. Different mosquitoes prefer different kinds of water. Some like swamps or ponds and others prefer water in swimming and wading pools, stagnant horse troughs, old tires, watering cans, flower pots, trash cans, and on fields and lawns if flood irrigation keeps them wet for several days at a time. These “backyard breeding” sources can create significant mosquito problems. Residents can help reduce mosquito breeding by preventing any standing water around their homes and

The Fallon Tribe and Indian Health Service urge residents to do their part in protecting themselves and their families from mosquito bites by:

- Avoiding being outside at dawn and dusk, when many species are most active;
- Wearing light colored and tightly woven clothing, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, shoes and socks to protect exposed skin;
- Repelling mosquitos using a repellent containing DEET or picaridin;
- Reducing standing water sites around your home (bird baths, gutters and drains, toys, flower pot saucers, swimming pools and pool covers, standing irrigation water);
- Avoiding irrigating to the point that yards and fields are wet for 3 or more days; and
- Making sure all windows and doors in your home have screens that are in good condition.

*Note that although WNV can be transmitted to horses, there is a vaccine available. Horse owners should contact their veterinarian for vaccination information.

For additional information on West Nile Virus, please visit the following websites:

Center for Disease Control (CDC) WNV homepage: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

Washoe County Health District – Vector-borne Disease Prevention Program:

https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programs-and-services/vector-borne-diseases/west_nile_virus.php

Posters:

http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/fs_mosquito_bite_prevention_us.pdf

http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/zika_protect_yourself_from_mosquito_bites.pdf

You can also contact Tribal Administration at (775) 423-6075 or the Tribal Health Center at (775) 423-3634, or contact the IHS OEHE, Reno District Office, at 775-784-5327 with questions or for more information.