



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2020

First possible West Nile Virus human case reported in Oklahoma County

(Oklahoma City, OK) The Oklahoma-City County Health Department (OCCHD) reported an Oklahoma County resident has been tested for West Nile virus (WNV) and is currently hospitalized.

“People should be aware that by minimizing the exposure to mosquitoes and taking additional preventative measures, the risk and chances of becoming infected are reduced,” said OCCHD Epidemiologist Cynthia Bates.

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites:

- **DRAIN** standing water around your home, yard, and neighborhood
- **DUSK and DAWN** are the times of day you should try to stay indoors; this is when mosquitoes are most active
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when you’re outside, and spray thin clothing with repellent
- **DEFEND** yourself by using an insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), it is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with WNV do not develop any symptoms. About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever and other symptoms. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.

Mild symptoms include a sudden fever, headache, dizziness, and muscle weakness. Serious symptoms include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis.

Symptoms usually appear within three to 15 days of being bitten. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatments for WNV infection. If you are concerned about any symptoms you or a family member are experiencing, see your health care provider.

The risk for mosquito-borne illness remains active until a hard freeze hits the Oklahoma County area. OCCHD stops mosquito trapping at the end of October.

About Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit www.occhd.org.