

Two County Residents Infected With West Nile Virus

First Cases of Human Disease in St. Charles County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Charles County — The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment announced today that preliminary reports received indicate that two St. Charles County residents have tested positive for the West Nile virus. One resident is a 76-year-old male who resides in the City of St. Peters and the other is a 72-year-old male who lives in the City of St. Charles. Both cases are hospitalized. Notification came from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. These are the first human cases of West Nile Virus reported in St. Charles County.

Mosquito control and surveillance efforts are continuing in the county. The Department of Community Health and the Environment still stresses prevention, and urges residents to take these steps to reduce their risk of exposure:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and socks when outdoors in areas with a lot of mosquito activity.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET(follow product instructions carefully).

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- Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Remove tires, buckets, and other water-holding objects.
- Avoid spending time outdoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are apt to be most active and if you are outside at that time use mosquito repellent.
- Clean birdbaths and change the water and at least once a week.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools or drain and cover if not in use; prevent water from accumulating in pool covers.
- Unclog gutters and down spouts.
- Make sure screens fit tightly in doors and windows.

Extensive West Nile Virus information and periodic updates can be found on the Department of Community Health and the Environment website at www.scchealth.org. Click on the link to the Metro West Nile Virus Information Center on the right side of the page. Information is also available by calling 636-949-7400.

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