



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **FIRST POSSIBLE HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED**

*State Test Results Awaited for Confirmation; County Continues Surveillance*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reports the first possible human case of locally acquired West Nile virus (WNV) in San Diego County.

Preliminary testing indicates that the first human case may be a 45-year-old Escondido-area woman, said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer.

"We are awaiting results from tests being done at the state level before we can confirm this diagnosis," Bowen said. "We have been told the results will be given to us after 4 p.m. today (July 6). Even if it is not confirmed, people in San Diego County need to be aware of the disease and ways to protect themselves against it."

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals via mosquitoes, which become infected after feeding on infected birds.

The public can protect against WNV by limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, wearing long sleeves and pants, using insect repellent with DEET, removing standing water from the perimeter of your house, and ensuring that windows and doors have tight fitting screens, and holes in screens are repaired.

HHSA will continue surveillance of local emergency departments and clinics, and DEH's Vector Control will continue its surveillance activities, including trapping mosquitoes, studying sentinel chickens, reporting on dead birds and checking on horses.

For more information on WNV, visit the County's Web site at [www.sdcountry.ca.gov](http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov).

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