



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
July 6, 2004

Contact: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

MEDIA ADVISORY

POSSIBLE HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS ANNOUNCED IN COUNTY

WHO: Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Gary Erbeck, Director, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health

WHAT: Announcement of first possible human case of West Nile virus in San Diego County

WHEN: 3 p.m.
July 6

WHERE: San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
1700 Pacific Highway

WHY: Preliminary testing indicates a 45-year-old Escondido-area woman may be the first human case of West Nile virus in San Diego County. Further tests are being done at the state level to confirm the diagnosis; results will not be available until after 4 p.m. today (July 6). Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer, will discuss the health aspects of the virus, including when to seek medical treatment and personal protection against mosquito bites, while Gary Erbeck, Director, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), will talk about what DEH is doing to control mosquitoes that carry the virus, how and when to report dead birds that may have died of the virus, and what the public can do to clean up mosquito breeding areas.

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