



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Jonah Weinberg (619) 529-6526

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY REPORTS PROBABLE IMPORTED CASE OF WEST NILE** *Visitor to County Likely Contracted Illness While Traveling in Another State*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) announced today that a 62-year-old Florida man, who is visiting San Diego County, has fallen ill with a probable case of West Nile Virus (WNV). Health officials believe he contracted the disease while traveling in another state where WNV is established.

“We are calling this probable case an ‘imported’ case because he likely got it somewhere else, but presented symptoms while visiting here,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County Public Health Officer.

The man was briefly hospitalized, but is now resting in a residence.

San Diego County Environmental Health’s Vector Control reports no evidence of WNV in the county at this time. Vector Control’s surveillance includes trapping mosquitoes, studying sentinel chickens, dead bird reporting and checking on horses, and the surveillance has not turned up any local WNV activity.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals via mosquitoes, which become infected after feeding on birds that already have the virus. Human-to-human transmission of WNV is rare, although human WNV infection was associated with blood transfusions and organ transplants in 2002.

Last year, California’s first reported human case of WNV was recorded in Los Angeles County. The patient fully recovered, and further WNV activity was not detected despite extensive monitoring.

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

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

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