



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST LOCAL HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASE REPORTED

Individual Not Hospitalized; Probable Exposure Outside San Diego County

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reports the first confirmed case of West Nile Virus (WNV) for this year. The individual, a 47-year-old San Diego County man developed signs and symptoms consistent with WNV fever. He is now doing well and was not hospitalized for the disease. While this WNV case will be attributed to San Diego County, HHSA believes the man was most likely bitten by infected mosquitoes while camping outside this county.

The disease was initially identified after the man donated blood, and a laboratory screening test of his blood sample tested positive for WNV. The private lab notified the San Diego Red Cross, which then reported the results to the HHSA. His blood was not used for transfusion to anyone.

"We are pleased the individual has recovered," said Dr. Nancy Bowen, San Diego County Public Health Officer. "We may see more than the two cases of WNV we had last year. It is important that people know there are simple things they can do to prevent getting the disease."

The public can protect against WNV by avoiding outdoor activity at dawn and dusk; not sleeping outside, unprotected, while camping; wearing long sleeves and pants; and using insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. It is also important to remove any source of standing water from the perimeter of your property, and ensure that windows and doors have tight fitting screens without holes or tears.

HHSA is working closely with the County Department of Environmental Health, which continues its WNV control activities to check for and eradicate possible sources of the virus in San Diego County.

For more information or to report dead birds, please call the County's WNV information line toll free at (888) 551-INFO or visit the County's web site at www.SDFighttheBite.com.

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