



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST LOCAL HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASE REPORTED *Individual Hospitalized; Testing Continues*

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 76-year-old San Diego County man, is hospitalized after developing symptoms consistent with WNV including fever and weakness.

“The man was admitted to a local hospital and subsequently diagnosed with meningeal encephalitis, prompting tests for WNV and other causes,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer. “Based on information from the man and his family, they do not recall any definitive account of mosquito bites, but the individual does spend a lot of time outdoors hiking and gardening. No other family members have been reported ill with similar symptoms.”

This is the first local case of WNV for 2006.

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 (DEH), which continues its WNV control activities to check for and eradicate possible sources of the virus in San Diego County.

“We are looking for and treating mosquito breeding sites in the area where the man lives,” said Gary Erbeck, Director, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

For more information or to report dead birds, please call the County’s WNV information line toll free at (888) 551-INFO (4636) or visit the County’s web site at www.SDFighttheBite.com.

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