



WALLA WALLA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
314 W Main / PO Box 1753
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone 509.524.2650 • Fax 509.524.2678

NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 30th, 2016

Contact: Meghan DeBolt, Director, 509-730-0162
Kevin Truman, Environmental Health Manager, 509-524-2682
Jill Stiffler, Communicable Disease Nurse, 509-524-2661

West Nile virus infection confirmed in Walla Walla County resident

The first Walla Walla County confirmed case of West Nile virus has been reported to Washington Department of Health. The case is in his 60s and likely exposed near his home in Walla Walla earlier this month. The case is now hospitalized.

Three other Washington residents have been diagnosed with the infection this year, all with exposures in state. A Benton-Franklin resident died earlier this month from the infection. Additional reports of infections are currently under investigation throughout the state.

Several mosquito, bird, and horse samples have tested positive across the state with over 90 confirmed samples in total. There have been no confirmed samples in Walla Walla County, until now.

“This is the first we have seen West Nile in Walla Walla County,” states Meghan DeBolt, Director of Walla Walla Department of Community Health. “Now that we know the virus is active in the County residents need to take precautions to protect themselves and loved ones.”

A few precautions can help reduce your chances of getting mosquito bites:

- Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing from dusk to dawn or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.
- Use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide longer-lasting protection.
- When weather permits, wear long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent containing permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent will give extra protection.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. Use your air conditioning, if you have it.
- Help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths on a regular basis.

PUBLIC HEALTH—ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WALLA WALLA COUNTY

c:\USERS\NWENZEL\APPDATA\LOCAL\MICROSOFT\WINDOWS\TEMPORARY INTERNET
FILES\CONTENT.OUTLOOK\J07I3ZPM\NEWS RELEASE WEST NILE CASE AUGUST 2016
(4).DOCX

###