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**PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release**

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**West Nile Virus Positive Pools Found In Twin Falls County- Public Health Urges Caution**

TWIN FALLS-South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) officials and the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) have confirmed a West Nile Virus positive mosquito pool in Twin Falls County, caught in district traps between Twin Falls and Kimberly. No human cases have been reported to date, however a horse in Gooding County has tested positive for the virus.

“West Nile is a potentially serious illness that is usually spread to animals and humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms,” says Logan Hudson, SCPHD Nurse Program Manager. “However, people with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash typically occurring 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.”

“TFCPAD traps mosquitoes throughout Twin Falls County during the summer to test for the virus. Some species are more prone to carrying diseases than others and we try to focus our work on those species. We have already increased surveillance and treatment in the area of the positive pools,” Kirk Tubbs, TFCPAD Manager.

Public Health officials remind individuals to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites:

**DRAIN** any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

**AVOID** the outdoors at dawn and dusk.

**DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

**DEFEND** yourself by using a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET (follow label directions).

**MAKE SURE** door and window screens are in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

For more information on West Nile, visit SCPHD's website at [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov) . For more information on positive pools visit the TFCPAD website at <http://tfcpad.org/>.

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