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PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

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Lincoln County Woman Tests Positive for West Nile Virus, First Human Case in South Central Idaho

LINCOLN COUNTY- The first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in south central Idaho has been reported.

“The female, in her thirties, was hospitalized and is now recovering at home,” said Christi Skuza, South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) Epidemiologist. “This is a great reminder to the public that West Nile is still a concern, so everyone should take extra precautions.”

Symptoms of West Nile infection include fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. More severe infections are marked by a rapid onset of a high fever, including headache, body aches, disorientation, neck stiffness, and tremors. Symptoms typically occur 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

The more you're outdoors, the higher the risk of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Precautions include:

- Use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET. Parents are advised not to apply repellent that contains more than 10 percent DEET on their children.
- Wear long sleeves, pants, and loose-fitting clothing at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active and feeding. If possible, consider staying indoors during these hours.

- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by draining standing water from flower pots, buckets, and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths and feeding troughs, at least twice a week.

For more information on West Nile, visit SCPHD's website phd5.idaho.gov or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/westnile.

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