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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mosquitos That Carry West Nile Virus Found In Gooding County, Officials Investigate Possible Human Case

GOODING COUNTY – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) officials and the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) confirm traps, just south of Hagerman, collected several mosquitos last week that are known to carry the West Nile virus and it is likely virus-positive mosquitos are in surrounding areas. **Health Officials are also investigating a possible human case of West Nile virus, if confirmed this would be the first human case in the area this year. The patient has not yet required hospitalization.**

“Our surveillance of mosquitos helps provide an early warning of West Nile virus in the area and serves as a reminder to people to eliminate mosquito habitat where possible and avoid the insect when they are most active at dusk and dawn,” said Kirk Tubbs, Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District Manager.

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

- Using insect repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient like DEET, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitos carrying the virus are most active.
- Wearing loose-fitting clothes with long sleeves and pants.
- Installing screens on all windows and doors.

- Checking for, and draining, any standing water around your home every three to six days- including clogged rain gutters, pools, bird baths and other outside water features.

“Although most people experience little or no symptoms when infected with West Nile virus it can, in some cases, lead to very serious illness- including death,” said Logan Hudson, Public Health Nurse Program Manager. “Finding West Nile positive mosquitos is a good reminder to protect ourselves against mosquito bites.”

Typical symptoms of the virus include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. People over 50 years old, with serious medical conditions, are at greater risk for serious illness from the virus. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

More information is available on our website at:

https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/WestNile/Index.htm?no_redirect=true

And on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>

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