



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Confirmed in Oscoda County

Recently, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed that an Oscoda County resident contracted and subsequently died from West Nile Virus. This is the first confirmed case and death in the District Health Department No. 2 service area which includes Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties.

West Nile Virus can be transmitted to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who are infected with West Nile Virus show no signs or symptoms of the disease, but in rare cases it can cause life threatening illness, especially in very young children, the elderly or persons with a compromised immune system. Some people infected will develop headache, body aches, fever, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Most people will recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks. About 1 in 150 people who are infected can develop a very serious condition called encephalitis, inflammation of the brain. Encephalitis can be life threatening and symptoms include; high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, convulsions, vision loss and numbness.

District Health Department No. 2 would like to remind people to protect themselves, when outside, from mosquito bites, even during cooler months. Residents can stay healthy by using simple, effective strategies to protect themselves:

- Proper use of insect repellent. The EPA suggests using a repellent with one of the following active ingredients; DEET, Picaridin, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), Para-Menthane-Diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. Follow the instructions on the product label and reapply as directed.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites around the home, such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires, or similar sites where mosquitoes lay eggs.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website at www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.