

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Melissa Propp, Clinic Manager, 308-345-4223

Mosquitoes in Southwest Nebraska Test Positive for Cache Valley Virus

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) has been notified of mosquitoes in the health district testing positive for Cache Valley Virus (CVV). This is the first time this virus has been found in mosquitoes in southwest Nebraska. CVV is similar to West Nile Virus but is much less common. The pool of mosquitoes carrying Cache Valley Virus was identified in Red Willow County.

“This serves as a reminder for everyone to continue taking steps to prevent mosquito bites,” said Sarah Minnick, Program Manager at SWNPHD. “Mosquitoes in our area may carry viruses that can cause illness in people. While human infections of Cache Valley Virus are rare, taking simple steps for preventing bites can help reduce your risk of mosquito-borne diseases.”

Cache Valley Virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with the virus do not develop symptoms. In the rare instances when illness occurs, symptoms may include fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, and, in severe cases, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). Severe disease is uncommon but can occur. If you have any of these symptoms after getting a mosquito bite, talk to your healthcare provider.

There is no specific treatment or vaccine for Cache Valley Virus. The best way to reduce the risk of infection is to prevent mosquito bites by:

- Using an EPA-registered insect repellent according to the product label.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Eliminating standing water around homes and properties where mosquitoes lay eggs. Empty containers that collect water, clean gutters, change water in bird baths regularly, and use mosquito dunks in standing water that cannot be drained.

SWNPHD will continue sending mosquitoes in for testing throughout the season and encourages residents to practice mosquito bite prevention to help reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.

More information on Cache Valley Virus may be found at cdc.gov/cache-valley or by calling SWNPHD at 308-345-4223. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. Information can also be found on SWNPHD’s Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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