



West Nile Virus Detected in Local Mosquitoes

BURWELL, Neb. – Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) is notifying residents that a mosquito pool collected from a surveillance trap in Burwell, Nebraska, in Garfield County, has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

Mosquitoes are routinely collected and tested throughout the LBPHD district as part of ongoing West Nile virus surveillance. Detecting WNV in a local mosquito pool reminds residents that West Nile virus is present in the area and that they should take steps to prevent mosquito bites when spending time outdoors.

West Nile virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with WNV do not develop symptoms. Those who do may experience fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, or diarrhea. In rare cases, West Nile virus can cause serious illness.

According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, West Nile virus activity is currently very high across Nebraska, particularly in central and eastern Nebraska. Residents throughout the LBPHD district are encouraged to take precautions to reduce their risk of mosquito bites.

Protect Yourself From Mosquito Bites

Residents can reduce their risk of West Nile virus by:

- Using insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.
- Wearing long sleeves and pants when spending time outdoors, especially during times when mosquitoes are most active.
- Removing standing water around homes and businesses where mosquitoes can breed, including water in tires, buckets, birdbaths, toys, and other containers.
- Keeping window and door screens in good repair to help keep mosquitoes outdoors.
- Avoiding areas with high mosquito activity when possible.

LBPHD will continue routine mosquito surveillance throughout the district and will provide additional updates as new information becomes available. Mosquito surveillance typically continues from Memorial Day through the first hard frost, which generally occurs in the fall.

About Loup Basin Public Health Department

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) serves Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler counties. LBPHD works with communities and partners throughout the district to promote health, prevent disease, and support healthier communities. Find more information on our website at lbphd.ne.gov or follow us on social media @Loupbasinpublichealthdepartment on Facebook and @loupbasinpublichealthdept on Instagram. Visit with our staff at (308)-346-5795, or email LBPHD at info@lbphd.ne.gov.