



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD HAS NON-LOCALLY ACQUIRED WEST NILE VIRUS

Child Appears to Have Been Infected on Vacation in Idaho; No Local Cases Reported

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency reports that a San Diego County child has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), but did not contract the illness locally.

“Based on information from the child’s parents, he was not exposed to West Nile virus in San Diego,” said Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Public Health Officer. “The child was hospitalized, but has been discharged.”

Even though the case was not locally acquired, the public should continue to be vigilant about WNV, whether at home in San Diego County or on vacation in another state, said Gary Erbeck, director, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

“Our Vector Control division continues to test mosquitoes for WNV, to treat mosquito breeding sites around the county with larvicide, and to urge people to check water sources on their property,” Erbeck said. Four dead birds have tested positive for WNV in San Diego County so far this year.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals via mosquitoes, which become infected after feeding on infected birds. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms, although a small percentage will become seriously ill. Last year, no locally acquired human cases were reported. However, 162 dead birds tested positive.

The public can protect against WNV by limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, wearing long sleeves and pants, using insect repellent with DEET or Picaridin, removing standing water from the perimeter of your house, and ensuring that windows and doors have tight fitting screens and holes in screens are repaired.

HHSA will continue surveillance of local hospitals and clinics, and Vector Control will continue its surveillance activities, including trapping mosquitoes, and testing sentinel chickens and dead birds. For more information or to report dead birds, please call the County’s West Nile virus information line at 1-888-551-INFO (4636) or visit the County’s West Nile virus Web site at www.SDFighttheBite.com.

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