



## Yavapai County Community Health Services

Our Mission: "Yavapai County Community Health Services will provide leadership, information, and services that contribute to improving the health and well-being of Yavapai County residents."



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### ***Clarkdale Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus***

Test results from mosquitoes trapped on July 20<sup>th</sup> confirm the presence of West Nile Virus in the Clarkdale area, according to Yavapai County Community Health Services (YCCHS).

Brian Supalla, Public Health Protection Manager reports, "We've been trapping and testing mosquitoes countywide. It had been quiet last year but we always presumed the Virus was still here. It's probably in other parts of the County too, but at relatively low levels. People should be aware of the potential for being bitten by an infected mosquito and take common sense precautions."

West Nile Virus can spread to humans through bites from mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. The incubation period is 3 to 14 days with symptoms lasting 3 to 6 days. Most people infected with West Nile Virus will feel no symptoms. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 20 percent will feel mild, flu-like symptoms that may include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body Aches
- Swollen glands
- Muscle weakness

A small percentage of people infected with West Nile virus will experience severe symptoms, require hospitalization, and some die from complications. Young children, those over the age of 50 and those with underlying health problems are generally at a higher risk for severe symptoms.



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There have been no reports of persons in Yavapai County diagnosed with West Nile Virus infection this year, or of horses being infected. Horses sometimes suffer severe infections resulting in euthanizing the animal. There is a vaccine available for protecting horses, but not for humans. So far in 2010, Maricopa County has seen 22 human cases of confirmed West Nile Virus, and there have been 2 deaths associated with West Nile Virus.

YCCHS offers the following recommendations to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Avoid outdoor activities from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- When you must be outside during these hours, wear clothing to limit skin exposure.
- For additional protection, use mosquito repellants that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptuses. Follow label instructions, especially when applying spray repellants on children or pets.

Residents and businesses can limit exposure and control mosquito breeding on their properties by repairing window and door screens and by removing standing water in potted plants, tires and other containers. Mosquito breeding in horse troughs, rain barrels or ponds may be controlled by using "mosquito dunks." These donut-shaped tablets contain bacteria that are lethal to mosquito larvae, and are harmless to the environment. Many plant nurseries and feed stores carry this product.

Other sources of West Nile Virus information include a toll-free number 1-800-314-9243.

Share this information with your neighbors. Working together to eliminate possible mosquito breeding sites will make it easier to control these pests. If you need to report a mosquito problem or have questions, call the County Environmental Health office at 639-8138 in Cottonwood, or 771-3149 in Prescott. For more information about mosquito control, visit [www.yavapaihealth.com](http://www.yavapaihealth.com) and link to "Disease Control."

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