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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 06/22/2010</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT</b>
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## **West Nile Virus Detected in Grant County**

Grant County Mosquito Control District #1 received notification yesterday afternoon that a mosquito sample they submitted for testing had tested positive for West Nile virus, making it the first detection of the virus in the state this year. The positive sample was found east of Dodson Road near the Winchester Wasteway.

The positive sample indicates that the virus is present in Grant County. To avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, residents and visitors should take appropriate precautions. These precautions include:

- Staying indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are the most active.
- Wearing a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and a hat when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods.
- Using mosquito repellent when necessary. Read the label and carefully follow instructions. Take special care when using repellent on children. Mosquito repellents that contain the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus are the most effective for offering long-lasting protection against mosquitoes.
- Making sure windows and doors are “bug tight”, and repairing or replacing screens.

Residents are also advised to help eliminate mosquito breeding habitats by:

- Emptying or discarding anything that holds standing water—bottles, cans, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, and toys.
- Changing water in your birdbaths, fountains, wading pools, and animal troughs at least twice each week.
- Making sure roof gutters drain properly; and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Fixing leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers.

In addition to the mosquito surveillance done by Grant County Mosquito Control District #1, there is ongoing surveillance of the virus in dead birds. You can report a dead bird by calling the Grant County Health District at (509)-754-6060 or online at [www.granthealth.org/westnilevirus.html](http://www.granthealth.org/westnilevirus.html).

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