



## Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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### - GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT - 2<sup>nd</sup> Horse in Grant County has West Nile Virus

GRANT COUNTY, WA – A second Moses Lake horse tested positive for West Nile Virus. To date, there have been no reported cases of West Nile virus in people in Grant County.

“These positive test results confirm that West Nile is active in Grant County. Residents and guests need to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites,” says Dr. Alexander Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer.

The risk of getting West Nile virus is very low, but anyone can become infected. People over 50 years of age have the highest risk of serious illness. Most people who are infected with West Nile virus will not get sick.

About 1 in 5 people infected will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache and body aches. Even fewer, about 1 in 150 people infected, will have more severe symptoms.

Contact your healthcare professional if you have symptoms of a possible WNV infection, especially if you recently had mosquito bites. *Severe* symptoms may include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and coma.

### Mosquito Problems Start At Home



### Don't Give Mosquitoes A Chance!

Mosquitoes need water to breed and grow. It doesn't take much water and it doesn't take much time. So, almost anything that will hold water for one week or more can produce these pests. Many places around your home may be causing mosquito problems. Get rid of places where water collects and mosquitoes won't have a chance!

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## Avoid mosquito bites.

- Make sure windows and doors are “bug tight.” Repair or replace screens.
- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are the most active.
- Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants and a hat when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods.
- Use 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 mosquito bites.

## Don't give mosquitoes a home.

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

The Grant County Health District is working in cooperation with Washington State Department of Health and Washington State Department of Agriculture and will provide additional updates as new information becomes available. For more information on West Nile Virus please visit [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/WNV.html](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/WNV.html) or [www.bfhealth.org/wnv](http://www.bfhealth.org/wnv).

Mosquito Problems Start At Home: [www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/PDFs/24\\_MosqPstr\\_E01L.pdf](http://www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/PDFs/24_MosqPstr_E01L.pdf)

Mosquito Repellent How to Use It Safely: [www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/PDFs/24\\_WNVrepel\\_E07L.pdf](http://www3.doh.wa.gov/here/materials/PDFs/24_WNVrepel_E07L.pdf)

The Grant County Health District participates in the Washington State Department of Health's West Nile virus dead bird surveillance program. This includes tracking and testing dead birds. Birds in the Corvid family are most sensitive to West Nile virus. These birds include crows, ravens, magpies and jays. Raptors, such as hawks, owls and eagles may also be infected with West Nile virus. To report a dead bird, contact the Ephrata Office of the Grant County Health District at 509-754-6060.

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