



Sarpy/Cass Department of Health & Wellness

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The Sarpy/Cass Health Department has been notified of its first case of West Nile virus (WNV). The individual is a male over 50 years of age with no underlying health issues. He had traveled out of state and spent time outdoors without the use of any mosquito repellent. He acquired numerous mosquito bites, became very ill requiring hospitalization, and is recovering.

West Nile Virus is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV season flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites by using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved mosquito repellent.

Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on an infected bird. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

Symptoms of WNV can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, rash on the chest, swollen lymph glands that can last from a few days to several weeks. More severe symptoms can last for several weeks and include those listed above, as well as stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis which can be permanent.

Please contact the Sarpy/Cass Health Department at 339-4334 if you have any further questions.