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MEDIA RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Found in Utah County Mosquito Pool

Residents Encouraged to Prevent Exposure with the D's of Mosquito Prevention

(Utah County) -- Utah County Health Department's Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) has confirmed that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been found in a Utah County mosquito pool* in the South Provo/North Springville (Ironton) area. Public health officials are encouraging individuals to take precautionary measures to avoid WNV exposure.

The Utah County Health Department (UCHD) MAD sets traps each week throughout the county to monitor the mosquito population. Those mosquito (*Culex* genre) that have the potential of carrying West Nile Virus and other arboviral virus (Western Equine Encephalitis or Saint Louis Encephalitis) are separated and tested to see if these viruses are present. To date the Utah County MAD has tested 792 pools of mosquitoes with only one positive pool detected.

The MAD has increased mosquito spraying in the air by fogger truck and plane. All spraying is done after sundown for the possible control of the mosquito population.

"While Utah County does not currently have any confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus, this is a great reminder to residents of the importance of taking steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes," says Eric Edwards, Deputy Director of UCHD.

Protect yourself with the Mosquito Prevention "Ds":

- DRAIN standing water
- DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outside
- DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside
- DEFEND yourself by using insect repellent with DEET
- DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition
- DISTRICT personnel are available to address mosquito concerns. Call 801-851-7637 or fill out a service request form online at: <http://goo.gl/Yi1yKs>.

WNV can cause mild to severe illness and many people may not even know they have been infected. It is estimated that less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe infection, which can result in debilitating long-term complications or death. Symptoms of WNV appear within 3 to 14 days and include fever, headache and body aches. Severe infections may include high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors and convulsions.

*"Mosquito pool" is the term used for a group of mosquitoes caught and tested out of a single trap.

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