



## Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District

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[www.2cmad.org](http://www.2cmad.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mosquito Bite Prevention During Labor Day Weekend** Additional Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Canyon County

As the Labor Day weekend approaches, Canyon County residents should remain vigilant in protecting themselves from mosquitoes and the diseases that they carry, such as West Nile virus. Four additional mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile virus last week from three different locations. “Although the majority of positives have come from the Northwest corner, we continue to see low levels of virus throughout Canyon County” said Jim Lunders, Director of Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District.

Lunders explained that the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District routinely sets gravid traps and dry ice baited EVS traps at over 100 locations throughout Canyon County to monitor for adult mosquito populations and the presence of vector borne diseases. To date, the District has tested over 2194 mosquito pools this season for West Nile virus, sixteen of which have tested positive.

The staff of the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District has increased surveillance and control measures in response to the increased public health threat.

“With the increased risk of West Nile virus, we encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites while enjoying the outdoors over the Holiday weekend,” said Lunders. He offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile virus:

- Eliminate or treat all sources of standing water that can be a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes, such as:
  - flooded fields
  - birdbaths
  - wading & swimming pools not in use
  - clogged gutters
  - old tires

If it holds water for 7 days, it can produce mosquitoes.

- Wear repellents while outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito-infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, Picaridin or 2-undecanone, making sure to follow the directions on the container.
- Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.
- Vaccinate horses for WNV, WEEV, and other diseases.
- Use EPA registered residual insect sprays on horses, making sure to follow the directions on the container.
- Have your livestock watering troughs stocked with mosquitofish for free by submitting a service request to CCMAD.
- Notify the District at 208-461-8633 if you have a site that is too large to be eliminated so it can be properly treated.

Additional information on mosquitoes and the diseases they carry can be found at:

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/diseases-conditions/west-nile-virus>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

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