



EL PASO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

301 S. UNION BLVD. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80910-3123
(719) 578-3199 Fax: (719) 575-8664 www.elpasocountyhealth.org

June 16, 2010

Contact: Susan Wheelan
Public Health Information Officer
(719) 575-8678

News Release

Protect Yourself and Your Family from West Nile Virus

El Paso County, CO—Recent rain and warm weather are the perfect recipe for mosquitoes to become active and reproduce, so it's time for the public to take action to protect themselves from West Nile virus, according to the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment.

“It's important that members of the public take action to protect themselves from potentially serious illness associated with West Nile virus,” said Executive Director Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A. “We're seeing warmer temperatures, and we've had recent precipitation, so the conditions are correct for mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry to become a problem.”

Here are the key steps that all residents should take to protect themselves, their families and the community from West Nile virus.

- Wear insect repellent with DEET.
- DRAIN standing water outside in tires, flower pots and the like.
- Limit outdoor activity at DUSK and DAWN when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS in pants and long sleeves when outdoors if possible.
- TREAT standing water such as small ponds and livestock tanks with larvicide “doughnuts.”

West Nile virus was first detected in El Paso County in 2002; the first human cases were reported in 2003. Due to budget cuts, the Health Department no longer treats standing water on public or private property or collects mosquitoes and dead birds for West Nile virus testing. Property owners are encouraged to take steps to reduce mosquito populations on their own property.

A West Nile virus fact sheet is included and also is available at www.elpasocountyhealth.org/pages/News.aspx. For more information, visit www.elpasocountyhealth.org.