

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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West Nile Virus Activity Expands to Buffalo County

KEARNEY – Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) is providing an update on West Nile Virus (WNV) activity within the district. Following the detection of WNV in mosquito pools in Dawson County reported earlier this summer, WNV has now also been detected in multiple mosquito pools in Buffalo County and continues to be detected in mosquitoes in Dawson County. Mosquitoes are routinely collected and tested throughout the TRPHD district as part of ongoing efforts. The detection of WNV in additional areas highlights the continued importance of taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

WNV is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who become infected have no symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they are typically mild, and may include fever, body aches, headaches, and vomiting or diarrhea. Serious illness occurs in less than 1% of infected people. At this time, there are no confirmed human cases of WNV within the TRPHD district.

Residents are encouraged to reduce their risk by:

- Using insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient.
- Wearing long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are most active.
- Avoiding areas with high mosquito activity when possible.
- Removing standing water around homes and businesses where mosquitoes can breed; like in tires, pools, birdbaths, or toys
- Keeping window and door screens in good repair.

TRPHD will continue routine mosquito surveillance throughout the district and will provide additional updates as new information becomes available. Routine surveillance takes place annually from Memorial Day to the first hard frost, which typically occurs in mid-October.

ABOUT TWO RIVERS PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district. Follow TRPHD on Facebook and Twitter @2RPHD