



Ada County Weed, Pest, and Mosquito Abatement
975 E Pine Ave.
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 577-4646
Adam Schroeder, Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Desiree Keeney (208) 577-4636
Deputy Director

August 7, 2019

West Nile Virus Detected in Ada County

MERIDIAN – Ada County Mosquito Abatement District has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquito populations for the first time in Ada County, this year. One pool of mosquitoes tested positive for the virus. The positive detection came from mosquitoes trapped in along the Boise River in Star, near the cross streets of S. Short Road and W. State Street.

The detections have prompted truck-mounted mosquito abatement treatments in the areas surrounding the detection sites in an effort to prevent human cases of WNV. The abatement district will continue to monitor and treat populations in the affected areas, as well as throughout the abatement district boundaries to prevent and control mosquito populations that could potentially vector WNV to humans and livestock.

In 2018, the county's first positive WNV test pool occurred on August 1st. Between May and September last summer, the abatement district identified 16 positive test pools from 14 trap locations, and trapped more than 28,000 mosquitoes countywide. About 36 percent of the trappings were identified as *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipiens*, mosquito vector species known to carry WNV.

The public can also play an important role in preventing the spread of West Nile Virus.

To help prevent the spread of West Nile virus:

- Drain or dump standing water weekly. For example, dump standing water from flowerpots, planter bases, bird baths, toys, cans, rain gutters, pet dishes, buckets, and old tires.
- Ensure that screen doors and windows are tight-fitting and in good condition.
- Avoid overwatering your lawn and landscape.
- Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn to prevent mosquito bites. Those are the times when the mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active.
- Dress in long sleeve shirts and long pants, preferably in light colors.
- Apply insect repellent following label instructions.

To see where WNV has been found in Ada County in 2018-19, visit:

<https://adacounty.id.gov/Mosquito-Abatement>, and click on the Mosquito Tracker.

For additional information on WNV and Ada County mosquito control efforts, visit the Ada County Mosquito Abatement District website. To report a mosquito issue, call 208-577-4646, or e-mail the district at: weedandpest@adaweb.net.