



## MLS: Laboratory Update First West Nile Virus Case of the Season August 10, 2010

### ***Purpose of this Message***

This message is to provide you with an update on a WNV news release that was issued today. For entire press release please go to: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/>

### **West Nile Virus Information**

Today, the Minnesota Department of Health issued a press release announcing the first West Nile virus (WNV) case of the season and emphasizing that Minnesotans need to take precautions against mosquito bites. MDH stressed the following points:

1. The first WNV case of the year has been reported in Minnesota. The case was in a Yellow Medicine County man who was hospitalized with West Nile encephalitis in late July.
2. August is typically the highest risk month for WNV in Minnesota, but virus transmission to humans can be expected through September.
3. Diligent use of mosquito repellents is important in preventing WNV, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Effective repellents include products containing DEET, permethrin, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.
4. Risk of WNV infection is greatest in western and central Minnesota and in the elderly or people with weakened immune systems.
5. More information on WNV epidemiology and diagnosis is available at 651-201-5414 or <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/westnile/index.html>.

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This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

**\*\*Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System\*\***

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