



**PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**3950 S. COUNTRY CLUB, Ste. 100 • TUCSON, AZ 85714**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Patti Woodcock, Community Relations Manager  
Pima County Health Department  
Desk: 520.243.7701  
Cell: 520.940.0194

**PIMA COUNTY RECORDS FIRST HUMAN CASE  
AND POSITIVE MOSQUITO POOL FOR WEST NILE VIRUS**

Tucson, Arizona – August 19, 2008 – The Pima County Health Department has received notification of its first human case of West Nile virus along with one mosquito trap site testing positive for West Nile virus. The human case, a female, was reported to the Health Department yesterday afternoon.

The mosquito sample was collected August 12 and sent to the Arizona Department of Health Services for testing. That result was confirmed today. One positive pool was located on the far northwest side of Pima County.

The human case, an adult female, was admitted to a hospital and has since been discharged. Her symptoms included fever, headache, neck pain, tremors, muscle weakness and pain, extreme fatigue and confusion.

Folks who are bitten by mosquitoes usually are bitten by ones not carrying the virus; and those bitten by an infected mosquito usually do not get sick. There are a few people, however, who develop prolonged and even life threatening illness. It is important to note that the virus is not passed on person to person.

The best way to prevent West Nile virus is to be sure you are not harboring mosquito breeding sites. Eliminate any standing water around your home; change the water in the dog's dish and bird baths daily; empty water from the saucers used for your outside plants, buckets, old tires, flower pots, toys, garbage cans, and wheel barrows; be sure screens on windows and doors are in good repair.

When participating in outside activities, use repellents containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin or IR 3535. Check the product information to determine which repellent is best for you and your family. Long sleeves and long pants, even in the summertime, are a good way of avoiding mosquito bites during the periods of high mosquito activity. Between dusk and dawn, avoid the outdoors as this is the time when mosquitoes like to bite.

The Pima County Health Department's West Nile virus information line, 243.7999, is for residents to file mosquito complaints. Citizens may also report unoccupied homes having neglected swimming pools, ponds, water standing or present for more than three days or other sites. Staff will be on hand to provide assistance Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Horses are susceptible to the virus and should be vaccinated. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your horse(s) needs to be vaccinated.

For more information, log onto [www.library.pima.gov](http://www.library.pima.gov) or [www.pimahealth.org](http://www.pimahealth.org)