



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: May 22, 2009
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START OF SUMMER RAINS MEANS MOSQUITO-BREEDING OPPORTUNITIES

Tucson, Az. - The monsoon has not yet returned, but recent rains are bringing much-needed moisture to our area. The rain also means that mosquitoes now have ample opportunities to establish breeding places if residents allow it. This increases the chances for West Nile Virus to spread.

Pima County and City of Tucson governments are among several regional organizations that want residents to immediately remove any standing water that could last for three days or more, and remember to:

- Use repellent when outside, especially from dusk to dawn:
 - o A repellent containing DEET
 - o Oil of lemon eucalyptus
 - o Picaridin or IR 3535
- Remove standing water from around your home or place of business
 - o Check the saucer plates under potted plants.
 - o Empty water from overturned toys, old tires, anything that can hold small amounts of water.
- Be sure screens and windows are in good repair.
- Report to the Health Department's West Nile virus Hot Line water that has been standing for 4 or 5 days, mosquito complaints, abandoned or green swimming pools, by calling 243-7999.
- Report neglected properties, unsecured pools, excessive trash and debris at 792-CITY (2489).

Web pages available for residents and organizations to get information:

- Pima County Health Department: www.pimahealth.org/disease/westnile.html
- City of Tucson: www.tucsonaz.gov/wnv
- State of Arizona Department of Health Services: <http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/westnile>

For more information, log onto www.pimahealth.org or sign up to receive immediate public health alerts from the Health Department via Twitter. Go to www.myalerts.mystateusa.com to register for emergency messages and other vital public safety information. This free service is provided through a regional collaborative effort from your emergency management and homeland defense agencies.

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