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## West Nile Virus Confirmed in Benton County

**Richland, WA** – A Richland man has been confirmed as having West Nile virus. The exposure likely occurred in Benton County and is the fourth human case of West Nile virus in Washington State in 2014.

So far this year, a Walla Walla man was infected likely near his home. Two other cases, a King County man and a woman from Grays Harbor, were infected in separate incidents while traveling out of state.

West Nile virus is a bird illness that can spread to people and other animals through mosquito bites. So far this year, mosquitoes with the virus have been found in Benton, Franklin, Grant and Walla Walla counties. An unvaccinated horse tested positive for the virus earlier this month in Franklin County

The best way to prevent West Nile virus infection is to prevent mosquito bites. Fight the bite by reducing the number of mosquitoes around your home and taking personal precautions until the first hard frost in October.

### Protection recommendations include:

- Drain sources of standing water around your home.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Windows and doors without screens should be kept shut, especially at night.
- Dress with long sleeves, pants, and a hat when mosquitoes are present.

When outside, wear an approved insect repellent. Approved mosquito repellents include DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Be sure to read and follow the label directions.

More information on West Nile virus is available via the information line: 1-866-78-VIRUS and on the BFHD and DOH websites.

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