



**Jefferson County  
Department of Health  
and Environment**

*To create, promote & enhance  
health & vitality through  
innovation, collaboration  
and celebration*

**Administration**

1801 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Golden, CO 80401-1798  
(303) 271-5700  
Fax (303) 271-5702

**Lakewood**

260 South Kipling Street  
Lakewood, CO 80226  
(303) 232-6301  
Fax (303) 239-7088

**Arvada**

6303 Wadsworth Bypass  
Arvada, CO 80003  
(303) 275-7500  
Fax (303) 275-7503

**Conifer**

Mountain Resource Center  
11030 Kitty Drive  
Conifer, CO 80433  
(303) 838-7552  
Fax (303) 838-3781

**Environmental Health**

1801 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Golden, CO 80401  
(303) 271-5755  
Fax (303) 271-5760

**Edgewater WIC**

1981 B Sheridan Blvd.  
Edgewater, CO 80214  
(303) 239-9580  
Fax (303) 239-9592

**Vital Records**

800 Jefferson County Parkway  
Suite 1300  
Golden, CO 80401  
(303) 271-6450  
Fax (303) 271-6451

**Public Health . . .**

*Everyday, Everywhere,  
Everyone*

**News Release  
For Immediate Release**

August 28, 2006

**First Human Case/Death from  
West Nile Virus in Jefferson County in 2006**

**CONTACT:**

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GOLDEN – Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) announced today the first death from West Nile Virus (WNV) in Colorado and in Jefferson County in 2006. This was also the first confirmed human case in the County. A Jefferson County, 82-year old female developed meningoencephalitis resulting in death. “We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the woman’s family and friends,” said Dr. Mark Johnson, JCDHE Executive Medical Director. JCDHE Environmental Health Services and Communicable Disease Control Program are conducting follow-up investigations.

“Now is the peak season for West Nile Virus,” said Dr. Johnson, “our integrated mosquito control contractor, OtterTail Environmental Inc. continues to identify, monitor and inspect mosquito breeding sites throughout the County.” To date, a total of 26 states have reported 388 cases of West Nile Virus disease in humans and Colorado has now confirmed 67 persons with the disease through August 25, 2006. Of these, 15 Colorado cases have resulted in neurologic disease, a more serious form of WNV that can result in death, particularly among the elderly.

The public is encouraged to take measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following the 4 Ds:

- **DEET:** Wear insect repellent containing either DEET, Picariden or oil of lemon eucalyptus when going outside. Always read the labeled instructions for use.
- **DRAIN:** **Jefferson County residents need to avoid “breeding mosquitoes” in their own backyards.** Empty standing water around your home and neighborhood, in areas such as flower pots, wading pools, bird baths, empty tires and wheelbarrows, since that is where mosquitoes lay their eggs.
- **DUSK/DAWN:** Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during evening and early morning (dusk and dawn) or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times when mosquitoes are most active.
- **DRESS:** Dress in long sleeves and pants during dusk and dawn or in areas where mosquitoes are active.

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Public health officials remind everyone that although West Nile Virus can be serious, most people will not even know that they have been infected. Signs of the illness usually appear 3 to 14 days after being bitten. Most infections are mild, lasting up to 2 weeks, and symptoms resemble the flu including fever, headache and body aches/weakness. Indications of more severe cases may include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, mental confusion, tremors, muscle weakness, convulsions, and coma. The more severe infections can result in vision changes, hearing loss, movement difficulties, brain damage, permanent paralysis, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord and lining of the brain), and death. **Persons who experience the more severe symptoms should contact their health care provider immediately.**

**Resources:**

**For more information on West Nile Virus:** [www.fightthebitecolorado.com](http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com)

JCDHE West Nile Virus Line: 303-239-7075

Colorado Help Line: 877-462-2911

Fight the Bite Colorado [www.fightthebitecolorado.com](http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com)

JCDHE website: <http://health.jeffco.us>

Ottertail Environmental 303-858-8350

CDPHE Zoonosis Program 303-692-2700

**For citizen concerns/complaints**

Ottertail Environmental (East of Hogback) 888-774-2161

JCDHE complaint line (West of Hogback) 303-239-7075

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