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KDHE: Take Steps to Prevent West Nile Virus

(MSCNEWS)--The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has seen a substantial increase in the number of mosquitoes within the past week, which can potentially spread West Nile virus.

In 2012, there were 57 cases of West Nile virus in the state, the most cases since the virus first made its way into Kansas in 2002. There are currently no reported cases of West Nile virus in 2013.

Symptoms of West Nile virus infection range from a slight headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and, in rare cases, death. People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune.

When outdoors, KDHE recommends that you use insect repellents containing DEET, and dress in long, loose and light-colored clothing. In addition, you should drain any standing water—such as kiddie pools or bird fountains, where mosquitoes like to breed.

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