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MEDIA RELEASE

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## **CHRISTIAN COUNTY REPORTS FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE**

Taylorville, IL - Christian County Health Department announced today the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV). The positive individual is in their 60s and resides in Christian County. The individual tested positive on August 22 and has been experiencing mild fatigue.

According to the weekly WNV report released by IDPH, as of August 30, there have been 18 human cases of WNV in the state.

The CDC states that most people infected with WNV do not develop symptoms. However, about 1 in 5 people develop a fever and other symptoms such as headaches, body aches, joint pain, and fatigue. "If you have spent time outdoors in an area with a significant amount of mosquitoes and you develop symptoms afterward, you may want to visit your primary care physician for further evaluation," said Dr. Chad Anderson, Christian County Public Health Administrator. "The evaluation may include testing for WNV."

The Christian County Health Department conducts weekly testing of mosquito samples collected from various areas in the county. Collection is the main way the health department tests for WNV, but another important part is testing infected birds. If you find a bird that has recently died with no apparent reason, please get in touch with your local health department. Collecting fresh, dead birds and testing them for WNV is an important monitoring tool.

The Christian County Health Department will continue to monitor and test mosquitoes for WNV. Remember, reducing mosquito breeding areas and reporting dead birds can help reduce your chance of contracting this virus. If you have any questions regarding the West Nile virus or any disease vectors, please contact your local health department or us at 217-824-4113.

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