



Pesky mosquitoes with West Nile virus still a problem in parts of Oregon

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Eleven people -- most of them in Eastern Oregon -- have been infected with the West Nile virus in the past three weeks because unseasonably warm temperatures have prolonged the mosquito season, which typically ends about now, the state's health division reported Thursday.

"Higher temperatures mean more eggs are hatching," said Dr. Emilio DeBess, a veterinarian with the **Oregon Public Health Division**. "As long as it's warm, we want to remind people to wear mosquito repellent."

He said those infected with the virus, which is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, typically have headaches and feel feverish for a few days.

DeBess said human cases of the virus have been confirmed in three counties. Malheur has nine, and Harney and Linn have one each.

The virus has also been detected in two horses, one each in Malheur and Union counties.

The virus has also been found in 82 mosquito pools – each pool sample has about 50 mosquitoes – in six counties: Malheur, Baker, Jackson, Klamath, Umatilla and Union.

Of those positive pools, 61 were in Malheur County.

DeBess said the threat should end within a couple weeks.

–Tom Hallman Jr.