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## **Arapahoe County gives mosquito repellent wipes to the public**

Arapahoe County set up *Fight the Bite* displays in five County buildings which are stocked with insect repellent wipes, magnets and brochures to prepare the public on ways to avoid the West Nile Virus.

The wipes are available in Littleton at the Administration Building and Arapahoe Plaza, in Aurora at CentrePoint Plaza and in Centennial at the Public Works and Development and Sheriff's Administration buildings.

West Nile Virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Nearly 3,000 human cases of the disease were reported in Colorado in 2003. Last year, 63 Coloradans died from the disease and 861 were hospitalized. Most of those who became seriously ill recovered, but some suffered permanent disabilities.

"Arapahoe County is providing the insect repellent wipes in order to educate the public that the West Nile Virus can in fact happen to you," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chair. "West Nile Virus is a preventable disease and it is worth the time and effort it takes to prevent it."

The only treatment available is prevention. A human vaccine will not be available for several years. Some precautions individuals may take are to practice the four Ds:

- DEET – use DEET-enhanced insect repellent (Follow label instructions)
- Dress – in long sleeves and pants
- Dusk to Dawn – avoid the outdoors from dusk until dawn
- Drain – drain standing water outside your home

The West Nile Virus season is here. Two confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus were identified in Colorado on June 11. Arapahoe County urges the public to *Fight the Bite* and wear insect repellent. For more information about West Nile Virus, visit the County's web site at [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) or [www.fightthebitecolorado.com](http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com).

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