

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Declares State of Emergency Regarding West Nile Virus**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today declared a state of emergency regarding the West Nile virus in Mississippi. Musgrove said he took the action after careful communication with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the State Health Department.

“This proclamation recognizes the seriousness of this issue,” Musgrove said. “It will be used in our efforts to request federal assistance to protect the public health through monitoring and eradication.”

Mississippi is one of thirty-two states with confirmed cases of the West Nile Virus. A total of twenty-three people in nine counties statewide have tested positive for the virus, with another eighteen probable cases. One death has been confirmed as caused by the virus.

Musgrove urged Mississippians to educate themselves about the virus.

“This situation is serious and we are working closely to monitor it,” he said. “We will do everything we can to ensure the public health, but again, it is important for the public to understand this virus and take active measures to prevent exposure and infection.”

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