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\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

### **Wyoming Department of Health to Study Brucellosis Impact on Humans**

CHEYENNE - Wyoming Department of Health officials said today that a serosurvey will be taken next week of people who work with animals at risk for brucellosis infection to determine how vulnerable humans themselves may be to the disease.

Brucellosis is a bacterial infection most commonly found in elk, bison, and rarely in cattle in Wyoming, said Dr. Jamie Snow, the State Public Health Veterinarian with the department of health. The disease in animals is most commonly associated with abortions.

Snow said that, although rare, brucellosis can be passed from infected animals to humans. Particularly for those people working in high-risk professions including veterinarians, Game and Fish employees, outfitters, ranchers, State Veterinary Lab workers, National Park Service employees, or wild game processors.

For humans, symptoms include fever, night sweats, joint pain, headache, chills, weakness, anorexia, and muscle weakness. If untreated it can cause severe recurrent joint pain in humans, Snow said.

She said that this is the first study of it's kind in Wyoming so it's unknown how many people may be infected.

"Even though we assume the numbers will be quite low, we don't know until we do the study," she said. "If there are populations at risk this information will be invaluable in determining how we can minimize those risks."

The department of health officials has had four human cases of brucellosis reported in the state since 2000.

To complete the survey, state health officials are asking eligible persons to visit a public health nursing office in the northwest area of the state between Aug. 22 - 26 to have their blood drawn and complete a short survey.

To be eligible for this study participants must be in one of the professions listed above, and although voluntary, participation is highly encouraged.

Snow urged people to call the clinic they intend to visit below to make an appointment - but walk-ins are also welcome. For general questions, please call the Wyoming Department of Health at 307-777-7172.

Locations and hours follow:

Afton: 307-885-9598. 421 Jefferson, in the County Branch Office (where the Sheriff's office is located. It's a few blocks east of Hwy. 89.)

Clinics on Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. / Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cody: 307-527-8570. Located in the basement of the original courthouse in Cody at 2001 Sheridan Ave.

Clinics on Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m./ Aug. 24 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jackson: 307-733-6401. 460 East Pearl Ave. Clinics on Aug. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m./ Aug. 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. / Aug. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Aug. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pinedale: 307-367-2157. 619 E. Hennick (next door to the Pinedale Medical Clinic). Clinics on Aug. 22 from 7 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. / Aug. 23 from 8 to 10 a.m. / Aug. 24 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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For more information, please contact:

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