



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Mary Ann Lee
Managing Director

830 Scenic Drive, P.O. Box 3271, Modesto, CA 95353
Fax: (209)558-8320
www.hsahealth.org

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CONTACT: Phoebe Leung
PHONE: (209) 558-7163

First 2007 Mosquito Sample Detection of WNV in Stanislaus County

STANISLAUS COUNTY – Stanislaus County health officials are announcing a third indication of West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in the County this year. Turlock Mosquito Abatement District received notification that a single mosquito sample taken in an area east of Turlock has tested positive for WNV. The District has submitted over 300 mosquito samples so far this year and this is the first one that has tested positive for WNV. The mosquito sample was collected on June 5, 2007.

Two birds have also tested positive for WNV this year, with the most recent confirmed on May 28 in Modesto. As of June 8, WNV has been detected in 9 of California's 58 counties, and no human cases have yet been reported in 2007.

“Early detection and eliminating mosquito breeding areas are the main keys to preventing the spread of West Nile Virus,” said Turlock Mosquito Abatement District Manager Jerry Davis. “Residents need to take an active part in reducing their risk of getting WNV by eliminating standing water around their homes where mosquitoes might breed and by reporting dead birds. If people do suspect problem areas with mosquito breeding, whether it’s in their own yard or a neighbor’s, they should request service or inspection by contacting their mosquito abatement district.”

To report a dead bird, call the California State hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD or report it online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Birds of particular interest to the state are crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors (hawk or eagle).

To report mosquito-breeding problem areas, Stanislaus County residents should contact one of the two mosquito abatement districts that serve the county. For Stanislaus County addresses north of the Tuolumne River, residents should call the Eastside Mosquito Abatement District at 522-4098 and all others should contact the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 634-1234.

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“West Nile Virus is a preventable health threat for Stanislaus County and it’s not going to just go away,” said Dr. John Walker, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. “It’s important for everyone to continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites and reduce their risk of becoming infected.”

These simple steps can help people protect themselves and others from mosquito bites and WNV:

- Eliminate sources of standing water. During warm weather, mosquitoes can breed within four days. Change the water in pet dishes and regularly replace water in birdbaths. Drill holes in tire swings so water can drain.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, at dawn and dusk, and especially for the first two hours after sunset.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Exclude mosquitoes from your home with tight fitting screens on doors and windows.
- Apply insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET when outdoors, according to label instructions.
- In addition to DEET-based products, the CDC has recently recommended insect repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus and Picaridin.

For more information, call the West Nile virus hotline at (209) 558-8425 to hear recorded information in both English and Spanish. You can also visit www.stanemergency.com for WNV information. The website includes maps showing locations of WNV-infected mosquito samples, dead birds, and horses.

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