



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

NUMBER: 09-13
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

DATE: July 30, 2009
Turlock MAD: Jerry Davis
PHONE: (209) 634-8331
East Side MAD: Lloyd Douglass
PHONE: (209) 522-4098

First 2009 Human Case of West Nile Virus in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County - East Side Mosquito Abatement District (MAD), Turlock Mosquito Abatement District, and Public Health officials received notification that a 52-year-old male in Stanislaus County has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The person was not hospitalized. This is the first reported infection in a Stanislaus County resident in 2009.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of a mosquito. Public Health officials are advising the public to take all precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. With the increase in the mosquito population, WNV activity is on the increase. People can protect themselves from mosquito bites by using insect repellent when outside, and avoid spending time outdoors at sunset and sunrise, when mosquitoes are most active. When outdoors, one should wear long pants and long sleeve shirts.

So far this year, the mosquito abatement districts in Stanislaus County have treated 62,301 acres to protect the public from West Nile virus. Through the Districts' surveillance system, over 567 mosquito samples have been taken to test for WNV infections, with five testing positive this last week. Sixty-six dead birds have been collected for state testing with six testing positive for WNV. "WNV is here to stay and the District actively searches for WNV to control infected mosquitoes before people become infected, and to notify the public as part of an early warning system so that people can protect themselves," said Turlock Abatement District Manager Jerry Davis. He is asking the public to continue to notify the District of any neglected swimming pools, as neglected pools are a primary spot where mosquitoes carrying WNV can be found. So far this year, both Districts have inspected 2,200 neglected swimming pools where breeding mosquitoes were found in about one-third of them.

The public has been helpful in reporting dead birds to the dead bird hotline (1-877-968-2473). This year the first indication that WNV was active in the District was from a dead bird that was reported to the State. "Dead bird reporting is a key element in our surveillance program that helps us determine where more control work is necessary to protect the public from WNV", said Lloyd Douglass, Manager of Eastside MAD.

To date, WNV activity has been detected in 32 of California's 58 counties. There have been 218 positive dead birds and 233 positive mosquito samples. There has been one (1) reported human infection so far this year. In 2008, a total of 445 human WNV infections were reported in 26 counties, including 15 deaths. The virus was detected in 49 out of 58 counties.

-CONTINUED-

“Early detection and eliminating mosquito breeding areas are the main keys to preventing the spread of the West Nile virus,” Douglass added. “We anticipate that there will be increased West Nile virus activity in Northern and Central California over the summer. People who observe neglected swimming pools or notice an increase in mosquitoes should contact the District right away.”

All horse owners are urged to consult their veterinarians about proper and timely WNV vaccinations for their animals. In 2008, 32 equine WNV infections were reported statewide, and 17 horses died or had to be euthanized, most of which involved horses that were not vaccinated.

The public can report dead birds to the California Department of Health Services by logging on to <http://westnile.ca.gov/cfm/deadbird.cfm> or by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

For more information about WNV please visit the following websites:

www.westnile.ca.gov for WNV information from the California State Department of Health Services.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm> for WNV information from the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information on how to protect yourself and your property, please log on to www.stanemergency.com.

###