



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Stanislaus County Continues to lead the State in WNV infections in Humans

STANISLAUS – The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency has announced the third and fourth cases of West Nile Virus infections in humans have been confirmed. The virus was identified in a 62-year-old man with a case of West Nile Virus fever, and a 46-year-old female with neuroinvasive symptoms. With these additional cases, Stanislaus County is tied with Los Angeles County for the most cases in the state.

Mosquito Abatement District officials are continuing to test dead birds and mosquito samples to monitor the virus and identify areas where treatment is needed. On Monday, August 4, the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District will be spraying to reduce the adult mosquito population in and around the community of Grayson. A mosquito sample collected there tested positive for WNV infection earlier this week. The spraying will take place between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. when mosquitoes are most active. District officials are advising residents to avoid direct exposure by staying indoors and keeping windows closed during the spraying. The material that is used is Pyrethrin, which is the same material that people use in their homes to spray mosquitoes indoors.

Several local communities will be hosting National Night Out events in the evening of Tuesday, August 5. This celebration to promote neighborhood safety is an excellent opportunity to also practice these easy steps to keep yourself and your family safe from mosquito bites and West Nile Virus infection:

- **DEET** - Apply insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
- **DRESS** - Wear clothing that reduces the risk of skin exposure.
- **DAWN AND DUSK** - Mosquitoes that carry WNV bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear repellent at this time. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

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- **DRAIN** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have a pond, use mosquito fish or commercially available products to eliminate mosquito larvae.

The public is encouraged to contact their Mosquito Abatement District office to report suspected mosquito breeding locations. Stanislaus County residents living north of the Tuolumne River and east of the San Joaquin River should call the East Side Mosquito Abatement District at 522-4098. All other Stanislaus County residents should contact the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 634-1234.

To help identify WNV Activity, people should report all dead birds by calling the California Dead Bird hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD or report it online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information on WNV, call the Stanislaus County West Nile Virus Hotline at (209) 558-8425, or visit StanEmergency.com.

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