



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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NUMBER: 16-09

Date: July 5, 2016

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS WHILE YOU ENJOY THE FAIR

STANISLAUS COUNTY - As the Stanislaus County Fair approaches, both East Side and Turlock Mosquito Abatement Districts encourage the citizens of Stanislaus County to continue their efforts with West Nile Virus prevention. Stanislaus County is experiencing its earliest West Nile virus (WNV) activity with virus detection in birds and mosquito pools. There have been no reported human cases to date.

“High temperatures and a wet spring have caused mosquito populations to rise in the county,” says District Manager David Heft, “it’s important for people to reduce their risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.” People can prevent mosquito bites by:

- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Using insect repellent registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. Products with one of the following active ingredients can help prevent mosquito bites.
 - DEET
 - Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin)
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD
 - IR3535
- Treating clothing and gear with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated items
- Making sure home or lodging has air conditioning with doors and windows with tight-fitting screens

It is also important to dump or drain standing water from around their homes to prevent mosquito breeding. Both Districts are monitoring and treating mosquito breeding sources. The Districts are using aerial photography to assist in locating potential mosquito breeding sites. You can report backyard sources like neglected swimming pools and ornamental ponds by calling the district where you live.

The Mosquito Abatement Districts will share a booth at the Stanislaus County Fair again this year. The districts encourage citizens to visit the booth, meet their mosquito control technicians, as well as learn steps they can take to protect themselves against mosquito bites and West Nile virus.

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 East Side Mosquito Abatement District at 522-4098 (www.eastsidemosquito.com) and all others should contact the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 634-1234 (turlockmosquito.org).

For more information, visit the Stanislaus County Emergency website (www.stanemergency.com) for WNV information.

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