



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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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE CONTACT: Phoebe Leung
PHONE: (209) 558-7163

First Human Case of West Nile Virus in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County – The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency announces that the first diagnosed case of West Nile Virus (WNV) this year is from a 60 year old male who was identified during routine screening for blood donation. All donors are screened to protect our blood supply. Currently he has no symptoms.

While this is only the first human case in Stanislaus County, there have been a total of 36 dead birds within the county that have tested positive for WNV this year. There have been 2 positive mosquito samples out of 124 samples tested by the East Side Mosquito Abatement District, and 4 positive samples out of 714 tested by the Turlock District. Both Mosquito Abatement Districts have been monitoring mosquito activity and treating areas where mosquitoes are abundant. “WNV activity started a week earlier this year than last, but positive mosquito pools and dead birds are in line with 2006,” according to the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District statistics.

“West Nile Virus infection is a health threat to all ages in our county,” said Dr. John Walker, Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. “As people head outdoors for summer activities, it is extremely important that they use mosquito repellent to protect themselves from mosquito bites and prevent becoming infected with West Nile Virus.”

Insect repellent should be applied any time you go outside, but it is especially important when mosquitoes are most active just after sundown and just before sunrise. To be effective, repellent should contain DEET, Picaridin, or lemon oil of Eucalyptus. When you must go outdoors, wear long pants and sleeves, and other protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.

Keeping your environment clear of mosquito-breeding grounds is always a good plan, and the best way to do that is to simply eliminate sources of standing water. Some examples of this include: not over-watering your lawn or garden, changing water in pet dishes and bird baths on a regular basis, and dumping any standing water out of backyard toys, flower pots and garbage cans.

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).

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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.

Report mosquito infestations to the East Side Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 522-4098 or the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 634-1234

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