



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Confirmed Human Infections of West Nile Virus in Yolo County

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County confirmed today that two residents have tested positive for West Nile virus. While both residents are symptom-free, West Nile virus can pose a serious health risk.

West Nile virus is most commonly spread to humans through the bite of a mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to humans and other animals. West Nile virus can cause fever, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Less than 1% of people who are infected will develop a serious illness.

According to Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District Manager Gary Goodman, there is high West Nile virus activity in Yolo County right now, which can be viewed on the district's website at: www.fightthebite.net/west-nile-virus-activity-map. The most effective way to avoid West Nile virus disease is to prevent mosquito bites. Yolo County Health & Human Services and the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District encourage everyone to practice the "Three Ds:"

1. DEET – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions. DEET can be used safely on infants and children two months of age and older.
2. DAWN AND DUSK - Mosquitoes bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens, free of tears or holes, to keep out mosquitoes.
3. DRAIN - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate or drain sources of standing water such as flower pots, old car tires, bird baths, pet bowls and buckets. Residents are encouraged to notify the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District (toll-free 1-800-429-1022) of swimming pools not being properly maintained.

California's West Nile virus website (www.westnile.ca.gov) includes the latest information on West Nile virus activity in the state. Californians are encouraged to report dead birds on the website or by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473)

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