



COUNTY OF YOLO

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First Human Case of West Nile Virus in Yolo County This Year

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency’s Communicable Disease Program has received confirmation of a human case of West Nile virus in Yolo County. The patient first became ill last month and is now recovering.

“The recent detection of first case of West Nile virus in a Yolo County resident this year is a reminder that COVID-19 is not the only disease residents need to protect themselves against right now,” said Yolo County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. “West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, and mosquitoes are active this time of year. To protect yourself against West Nile virus, protect yourself from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants and using mosquito repellent, particularly at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.”

People typically develop symptoms of West Nile virus between 2 and 14 days after they are bitten by an infected mosquito. While 80 percent of people who are infected will not show any symptoms, up to 20 percent of those infected will have symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days or as long as several weeks, even for generally healthy people. So far in 2021, more than 30 people have contracted West Nile Virus in California.

About 1 in 150 people infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness. Their symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks and neurological effects may be permanent. People over the age of 50, and those who have diabetes or hypertension, are more likely to develop serious symptoms of West Nile virus and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

The best way to prevent West Nile virus infection and other mosquito-borne illnesses is to prevent the bite of an infected mosquito. Following the 7 D’s decreases the risk of mosquito bites:

- **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- **DAWN and DUSK** are times to avoid being outside. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active.
- **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- **DISTRICT** personnel are available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District has been performing extensive control measures in and around Yolo County to reduce both larval and adult mosquitoes, and will continue to do so to minimize adult mosquitoes carrying the disease. For additional resources, visit the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District website at: www.fightthebite.net or call 1-800-429-1022. For the Yolo County Health Department's website visit: www.yolohealth.org. For California's data and statistics on West Nile Virus visit: <http://westnile.ca.gov/>.

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