



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Gerardo Pinedo
County Administrative Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695
www.YoloCounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2023

Contact: Dwight Coddington

Email: PIO@YoloCounty.org

Phone: (530) 908-0186

First Case of West Nile Virus in Yolo County in 2023

(Woodland, CA) - The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency's Communicable Disease Program has confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus in Yolo County in 2023. The patient, who is a resident of Woodland, fell ill during the first week of August. This incident underscores the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures to mitigate the spread of this mosquito-borne illness.

"Most people who become infected do not get sick, and the risk of serious illness to most individuals is low. However, about one percent of individuals can develop a serious neurologic illness," said Yolo County's Deputy Public Health Officer Dr. Mary Ann Limbos. "We commend the dedicated efforts of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District and their ongoing work in reducing mosquito populations to safeguard our community's well-being."

Yolo County Deputy Public Health Officer, Dr. Mary Ann Limbos, emphasizes the importance of individual actions: "Residents can play a crucial role in preventing West Nile virus by regularly inspecting their yards and eliminating standing water, a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Employing precautions such as wearing protective clothing and using insect repellents containing DEET significantly reduces the risk of mosquito bites." Even as summer wanes, favorable weather conditions are sustaining mosquito habitats.

West Nile virus symptoms typically manifest between 2 to 14 days following exposure to infected mosquitoes. Although the majority of individuals may not exhibit symptoms, up to 20 percent may experience fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and other discomforts. While most cases resolve within a few days to weeks, serious neurologic effects can occur, making it imperative to remain vigilant.

To mitigate the risk of West Nile virus infection, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District recommends following the 7 D's to reduce mosquito exposure:

- **DRAIN** any stagnant water to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- **DAWN** and **DUSK**, when mosquitoes are most active, are times to limit outdoor activities.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- **DEFEND** against mosquitoes by using effective insect repellents containing **DEET**, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

- Ensure **DOOR** and window screens are intact to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.
- For assistance, contact the **DISTRICT** at 1-800-429-1022 to address mosquito concerns.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District has been diligently implementing comprehensive control measures to reduce mosquito populations in Yolo County, minimizing the risk of disease transmission. To access additional resources, visit their website at www.fightthebite.net or call 1-800-429-1022. For more information about California's West Nile Virus data and statistics, please visit westnile.ca.gov.

###