



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Cases of West Nile Virus in Yolo County in 2024

(Woodland, CA) - The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency's Communicable Disease Program has confirmed the first two human cases of West Nile virus in Yolo County for 2024. Both individuals are residents of Woodland and required hospitalization. This development highlights the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures to control the spread of this mosquito-borne illness.

"Most people who become infected after a mosquito bite 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 Public Health Officer, Dr. Aimee Sisson. "Last year, several Yolo County residents died from West Nile virus infection. Mosquito bites aren't just annoying—they can be deadly. Protect yourself with mosquito repellent and clothing that minimizes bare skin."

West Nile virus symptoms typically manifest between 2 to 14 days following a bite from an infected mosquito. Although the majority of individuals do not have symptoms, up to 20 percent may experience fever, headache, body aches, nausea, or vomiting. While most cases resolve within a few days to weeks, serious neurologic effects can occur, resulting in hospitalization and even death.

To reduce the risk of West Nile virus infection, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District recommends following the 7 Ds 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 implementing comprehensive control measures to reduce mosquito populations in Yolo County, minimizing the risk of disease transmission.

Additionally, the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency offers a Wellness Vending Machine Program that provides free wellness products to residents, including insect repellent. To find a vending machine location and access these resources, please visit www.YoloCounty.gov/Covid.

For further information and resources, visit the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District's website at www.FightTheBite.net or call 1-800-429-1022. For more information about West Nile virus in California, including data and statistics, please visit WestNile.ca.gov.

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