



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile virus activity detected in Solano County

SOLANO COUNTY- The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) have confirmed that a bird has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The specimen sample was collected in late June in Vacaville. As of July 11, 2022, the California Department of Public Health reports that there are no human cases of WNV.

"This marks the official start of West Nile virus season in Solano County," said Christine Wu, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Health Officer for the County. "Residents should take the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of getting an infection by using insect repellent when spending time outdoors and removing standing water sources in the home."

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitos become infected when they feed on infected birds. Reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne illness by following these guidelines, including:

Dawn and dusk

Mosquitoes are most active in the early morning and evening. Residents should avoid being outside at these times. If you are outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants and use insect repellent.

Drain standing water

Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Residents should eliminate all sources of standing water on their property and drain empty flowerpots, buckets, barrels, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have an ornamental pond, contact SCMAD at (707) 437-1116 for a free mosquito fish.

DEET and other repellents

Insect repellents help keep mosquitoes from biting. Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or para-menthane-diol products per the manufacturer's instructions.

Doors and windows

Residents should ensure that their doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

Most people (about 4 in 5) infected with the West Nile virus will not develop any symptoms. About 1 in 5 will develop mild flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and swollen lymph glands. However, less than 1 percent (about 1 in 150) of persons with WNV infections will develop severe neurological disease. In rare cases, WNV infection can be fatal.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH

Anyone can be infected with WNV, and people who are 60 years old and older and those with certain medical conditions, like cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and people who have received organ transplants, are at greater risk of developing severe illness and complications.

"We urge residents to remove standing water on their property to aid in our prevention and control efforts," says Richard Snyder, Solano County Mosquito Abatement District Manager. "Any unmaintained swimming pools and stagnant water should be reported by calling us at (707) 437-1116."

Residents are encouraged to report dead birds online at <https://westnile.ca.gov/> or by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

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