



# News Release

**For Immediate Release: August 24, 2009**

**Contact:** Deborah Bass (925) 771-6112 (925) 260-4670 Cell [dbass@ccmvcd.net](mailto:dbass@ccmvcd.net) [www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us](http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us)

## **WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN DEAD BIRDS AND MOSQUITOES IN BRENTWOOD, DISCOVERY BAY, OAKLEY AND PITTSBURG**

*– Elevated risk in the Delta area –*

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District announced today that four more dead birds and a group of mosquitoes have confirmed positive for West Nile virus in Contra Costa County. Two of the dead birds were found in Brentwood; one at Cesa Avenue and First Street and the other at Byron Highway and Orwood Road. One dead bird was from Walnut Drive in Oakley and another dead bird was found at Diehl Way and Suzanne Drive in Pittsburg. The group of mosquitoes was found at Highway 4 and Cherry Hills Drive in Discovery Bay.

“Due to the increased West Nile virus activity in east Contra Costa County and in San Joaquin County, there is an elevated risk in the delta area. Everyone should be using mosquito repellent when outdoors,” said Steve Schutz, scientific programs manager for the District. “Especially those people who enjoy boating activities.”

Today’s report brings the total West Nile virus-positive vectors this year in Contra Costa County to 16 groups of mosquitoes, 20 dead birds and one sentinel chicken. According to the [county health department’s Web site](#), there have been two human cases of West Nile virus in the county this year; an adult woman and a young man, both of whom are recovering from the disease.

Residents are urged to wear mosquito repellents with the ingredients DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. The public is also reminded to report neglected swimming pools or other water sources where mosquitoes emerge. Reports may be made anonymously.

To understand possible mosquito water sources in yards, visit the [District’s Web site](#).

Most people who are bitten by a mosquito with West Nile virus will not get sick; however, up to 20 percent of the population infected with West Nile virus will get West Nile fever. West Nile fever causes people to experience mild to severe flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body ache and possible paralysis. Less than one percent of infected individuals will require hospitalization. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most susceptible to illness and death caused by West Nile virus.

-MORE-

Page 2 - **WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN DEAD BIRDS AND MOSQUITOES IN BRENTWOOD, DISCOVERY BAY, OAKLEY AND PITTSBURG**

Residents are urged to take the following precautions:

- DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using a repellent with an effective active ingredient such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure to follow label directions.
- DRAIN all sources of standing water that may support mosquito-breeding habitats. Residential sources can be a big producer of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County.
- DOOR and window screens should fit tight and be in good repair. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- DO vaccinate your horses. Horses are highly susceptible to West Nile virus - approximately half of the horses that get West Nile virus die or have to be euthanized.
- DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoors since this is when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors and mosquitoes are present.
- DEAD birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

People wishing to be notified about adult mosquito fogging or spraying in residential areas have several options. They may visit the District's Web site at [www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us](http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us) and opt to receive the notifications automatically by e-mail; they can view information on the District's Web site; or they may phone the District for a recorded message at (925) 771-6195.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District, a public health agency, is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 771-6195 or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs. Fish are also available at the Antioch Corporation Yard located at 1201 W. 4th Street in Antioch.

For information concerning human West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their Web site at <http://cchealth.org>.

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please call the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at (916) 654-1447.