



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **THIRD PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation of the third human West Nile virus case in the county this year. A woman between the ages of 18-50 is a resident of central Contra Costa County and is reported to have had the milder form of the disease, West Nile fever. West Nile fever is generally described as a mild to severe flu-like illness lasting several days to a few months.

“We need to partner with the public,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager for the District. “Considering that one mosquito can produce up to two million offspring in as little as a month and that residential yards make up the majority of mosquito breeding in our county – it’s imperative that residents join us in the fight against this disease by checking their own yards for standing water and eliminating it so mosquitoes don’t breed”.

To date in Contra Costa County there have been a total of three humans, 38 birds, six chickens, three mosquito samples, five horses, and one squirrel that have tested positive for West Nile virus. In California, there have been eight West Nile virus-related fatalities and 416 people diagnosed with the disease this year.

Most people who are bitten by a mosquito with WNV will not get sick; however, up to 20 percent of the population infected with WNV 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 WNV.

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 are the biggest 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.

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Page 2 - THIRD PERSON TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

DO vaccinate your horses. Horses are highly susceptible to West Nile virus – approximately half of the horses that get WNV die or are euthanized.

DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoor 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). Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

To learn about possible mosquito spraying in Contra Costa County, visit the district's website at [www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us](http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us) or call (925) 685-9301 for a recorded message.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 685-9301, or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs.

For information concerning West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at [www.ccpublichealth.org](http://www.ccpublichealth.org)

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at [www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\\_info.htm](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm) or call them at (916) 654-1447.

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