



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTRA COSTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL URGES RESIDENTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM MOSQUITO BITES

-Residents are urged to use insect repellent and dump standing water in their yards to fight the bite-

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - Thirteen mosquito samples and 31 birds have tested positive for West Nile virus in Contra Costa County this year prompting Mosquito and Vector Control officials to urge residents to protect themselves from the disease.

“Mosquitoes that have West Nile virus are capable of giving people the virus,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. “We are urging residents to wear mosquito repellent, especially those products that contain the active ingredient DEET, and especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.”

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District technicians are working extended schedules to provide additional surveillance and control and are currently conducting localized fogging for adult mosquitoes, weather permitting.

“Residents play a very important part in helping to reduce their risk of contracting West Nile virus,” said Bass. “Getting rid of standing water, wearing repellent and calling the hotline to report dead birds are just a few of the many activities residents can do to help themselves and their community to fight the bite.”

To learn if the District is fogging for adult mosquitoes or for media opportunities, please visit the district’s website at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us or call (925) 685-9301 for a recorded message.

Last year in Contra Costa County there were 11 human cases, 94 dead birds, 18 chickens, four mosquito samples*, ten horses, and 25 squirrels that tested positive for West Nile virus. So far in California this year, there have been 38 human cases, 443 dead birds, 143 chickens, 349 mosquito samples, and 13 horses that have tested positive for the virus.

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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.

To report dead birds or to learn of your local mosquito control district, call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit www.westnile.ca.gov.

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

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

* Mosquito samples: Mosquitoes are trapped, collected from the field, and then the females are pooled together by species. Each pool contains one to 50 mosquitoes. Each sample is tested for the presence of St. Louis encephalitis, Western Equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile viruses.

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