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# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **THREE MORE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

*– First horse, more birds, and more mosquitoes test positive for WNV as well–*

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is reporting that three more people have tested positive for West Nile virus in the county. The first two people are from Brentwood; a girl under the age of 18 years and a 28-year-old woman. The third person is a 43-year-old woman from Oakley. All survived and are recovering.

The District is also reporting the first horse of 2008 that has tested positive for West Nile virus. The horse survived and is located in the Byron area, east of Brentwood. One group of mosquitoes from Pittsburg tested positive for the disease, as well as six dead birds, two from Antioch, two from Brentwood, one from Pittsburg, and one from Walnut Creek. Antioch and Brentwood remain high risk areas for West Nile virus infection in Contra Costa County.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, four people, 66 dead birds, 24 groups of mosquitoes, seven squirrels, four chickens, and one horse have tested positive for West Nile virus. Forty of those birds, 15 of the mosquito samples and five of the squirrels have been from Antioch.

“Over watering of lawns in residential and recreational park areas continue to be an issue in terms of mosquitoes,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager with the District. “We’re asking everyone to consider using less water and to inform our District of agricultural flooding activities.”

The District is urging all residents to maintain water features in their yards and to report abandoned or neglected swimming pools. Abandoned or neglected swimming pools are a significant source of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County and each one can produce hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes and affect residents up to a five-mile radius. Infected mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus, a debilitating and potentially fatal disease.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District 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 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs. Mosquitofish are also available at City of Antioch Corporation Yard, 1201 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Antioch, CA, Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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People wishing to be notified about adult mosquito fogging or spraying 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 email, they can view information on the District Web site, or they may phone the District for a recorded message at (925) 771-6195.

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 website at [www.ccpublichealth.org](http://www.ccpublichealth.org). Human West Nile virus cases can be found at [http://www.cchealth.org/topics/west\\_nile/cases.php](http://www.cchealth.org/topics/west_nile/cases.php)

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.

Dead birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or [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.

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