



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITOES FOUND IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

*-First West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes This Year-*

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - Three West Nile virus positive samples of mosquitoes have been found in Contra Costa County. The positive mosquitoes, trapped in Concord, Pacheco, and Holland Tract are the first to test positive this year in Contra Costa County. To date, six dead birds have also tested positive for West Nile virus in the county.

“Due to the elevated risk of human infection of West Nile virus in these areas, we are focusing our efforts there to minimize risk to our residents,” said Craig Downs, general manager for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. “Positive West Nile virus mosquitoes mean that disease transmission is occurring in a specific location, unlike a positive bird that could have flown into an area.”

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

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](http://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 five human cases, 151 dead birds, seven chickens, 62 mosquito samples, and three horses that have tested positive for the virus.

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](http://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](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.

\* 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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