



NEWS RELEASE

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THREE MORE WEST NILE VIRUS CASES REPORTED IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY *-District also reports more birds, mosquitoes, horses and squirrels-*

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation that two woman and one man, all from east Contra Costa County, have been diagnosed with West Nile virus. One of the women, a 53 year-old, was diagnosed through the screening of her blood donation. Ages of the other two people were not reported.

The District is also reporting an additional four birds, six squirrels, one mosquito sample, and two horses that have tested positive for West Nile virus.

To date this year in Contra Costa County there have been a total of 11 human cases, 64 birds, 15 chickens, four mosquito samples (groups of mosquitoes), ten horses, and 16 squirrels that have tested positive for West Nile virus. In California, there have been 15 West Nile virus-related fatalities and 735 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.

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.

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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 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

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 or call them at (916) 654-1447.

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