

Butte County Public Health: "First case of West Nile Virus confirmed in Butte County"

10 hours 39 minutes ago by **News Staff**, www.actionnewsnow.com

The Butte County Public Health department has confirmed the first human cases of West Nile Virus this year.

The Butte County Public Health Department says West Nile Virus activity has been detected in 35 of California's 58 counties and they knew it was here in Butte County.

"Because of the positive mosquito pools that have been tested, we've got some birds that have tested positive for West Nile, but this is our first human case," said Lisa Almaguer, Butte County Public Health's spokesperson.

This year, the cases involve three Chico residents.

"So the three adults infected are all from the Chico area," Almaguer said. "Each of their cases is unrelated and they range in age from middle-aged to older adult."

One of the adults infected has experienced a fever illness without complications while the other two adults have suffered the more severe, neuroinvasive form of West Nile virus.

"Symptoms typically exhibit with a stiff neck, loss of vision, tremors, disorientation," she said.

The health department encourages residents to practice the three d's...

"West Nile is a highly preventable illness and people just need to remember the three d's," she said.

The first D: use insect repellent like DEET, also reduce the risk of mosquito bites by avoiding going outside during the second and third Ds: dawn and dusk.

"Mosquitos that carry West Nile virus typically bite in the early morning hours or in the late afternoon evening hours and also to drain standing water," she said.

West Nile season typically lasts from June through October.

The health department is currently investigating several additional cases and expects the number of human cases in the county to increase.

Last year, one person died from the virus.

The health department says there is a higher risk for young children and older adults.

