

# West Nile virus confirmed in three people in Butte County



Mosquito-borne

West Nile virus has been found in three Chico residents, two of whom had the most severe form of the disease. Contributed photo

By Staff Reports (ChicoER.com)

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Oroville >> Three Chico residents have been confirmed as having West Nile virus, according to the Butte County Public Health Department.

Two of the three Chico victims suffered the more severe, neuroinvasive form of West Nile virus. The third experienced a fever without complications, according to a press release.

These are the first Butte County human cases this year. Several other potential cases are under investigation.

All the victims are adult, and the cases are separate and unrelated.

The disease was detected in humans in Yuba and Tehama counties earlier. There have been 22 human cases in 35 California counties outside Butte.

In Butte County, 11 dead birds, 25 sentinel chickens and 35 mosquito samples have tested positive for the disease. It had been detected in all parts of the county.

Most people infected with West Nile virus show no symptoms. About 1 in 5 people infected develop a fever without complications.

Less than 1 of 150 people infected develop the severe neuroinvasive disease that can include encephalitis or meningitis. Recovery can take weeks or months, and some individuals will have long lasting impairments. Rarely, West Nile virus can cause death.

The Health Department says residents should reduce the risk of mosquito bites, and eliminate standing water on their property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls.

Unmaintained swimming pools or other potential mosquito breeding sites can be reported to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District at 342-7350 or 533-6038.