

Avoiding WNV

Precautions to take against contracting West Nile Virus

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Local public-health officials are urging citizens to take precautions against **West Nile virus**, as three new cases have recently been reported in Butte County.

In an Aug. 29 press release, the Butte County Public Health Department announced two of those three cases are **neuroinvasive**, the most severe form of the disease, which is most commonly spread by mosquitoes. This season, WNV has been reported in 34 of 58 California counties; the latest Butte County cases bring the total number of people affected here to four.

The BCPHD recommends the following actions to prevent infection:

- **Avoid outdoors** during peak mosquito activity, especially dusk and dawn.
- **Wear long sleeves and pants** outdoors when possible.
- **Apply insect repellent** containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, Picaridin or IR3535.
- **Eliminate all standing water**; report dead birds and squirrels, or ponds and unused swimming pools that are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, to 342-7350.

Go to www.westnile.ca.gov for more information.