

# **Butte County Public Health Department confirms three new cases of West Nile Virus**

Staff Reports (ChicoER.com)

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**BUTTE COUNTY** — Three new human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Butte County, and one of them was hospitalized in serious condition with a brain infection.

The new cases are either in Chico or the south county, and all are 55 and older, according to the Butte County Public Health Department.

Butte County currently has a total of four reported cases for this year. The first case, an elementary school-aged child, was reported last month.

As of Aug. 14, 37 human cases of West Nile virus have been reported from 16 different counties in California.

The risk of West Nile virus has been increasingly high in Butte County, said Dr. Mark Lundberg, Butte County health officer.

Butte County is at an elevated risk for contracting West Nile virus from mosquitos because of the increasing mosquito population and widespread distribution of the virus through the county, said Matt Ball, district manager for Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, in a press release by Butte County Public Health.

"It's imperative that residents assist with the prevention of mosquito breeding by inspecting and eliminating all standing water from their properties," Ball said.

"We know that WNV is circulating in our community and will continue to circulate for the next couple of months," Lundberg said in a press release by Butte County Public Health. "It is very important that residents ramp up mosquito prevention efforts and avoid being bitten, as this is how the virus is spread to humans."

Lundberg recommends taking precautions to prevent being infected by the virus. Using insect repellent like DEET, wearing proper clothing and repellent during dawn and dusk and draining standing water are ways to prevent mosquito bites.