

Butte Co., Hamilton City residents at increased risk for West Nile Virus



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Butte County officials announced Monday that 11 humans in Butte County have tested positive for West Nile Virus and activity is continuing to increase across the North State.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District said today the amount of mosquito pools, dead birds, sentinel chickens and humans testing positive for West Nile is on the rise.

With increasing mosquito populations and the detection and wide-spread distribution of West Nile within Butte County, the District urges residents to take all precautions necessary to drain any and all un-needed standing water and report any suspected mosquito-breeding sites to the District.

Officials say just this year the disease has been located in Chico, Hamilton City, Paradise, Oroville, Palermo, Honcut, Biggs, Gridley, Richvale, Nelson, and rural areas along the west side of Butte County.

Since the arrival of West Nile in 2004, 139 residents have been infected, and seven people lost their lives.

Residents should use mosquito repellents when they go outdoors, and wear long sleeves and long pants at the times when mosquitoes are most active.