

Chico woman recovering from severe West Nile virus case

Staff Reports (OrovilleMR.com)

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OROVILLE — A Chico woman in her 60s is recovering from a case of West Nile virus that sent her to the hospital.

Dr. Mark Lundberg, Butte County's public health officer, said he received confirmation today from a state lab that the woman did have West Nile virus.

Her illness was the first human case of West Nile this year in Butte County.

Lundberg said the woman, who lives in the Hegan Lane area, was at Enloe Medical Center for a time but is now at home, trying to regain her strength.

She was stricken with one of the rare neuro-invasive cases of the disease, which causes an infection of the brain, Lundberg said.

In her case, the infection made her so weak she couldn't care for herself, he said.

She became ill at the end of July and went into the hospital at the beginning of August.

West Nile virus is carried by certain types of mosquitoes. People get the disease when they are bitten by infected mosquitoes.

Lundberg said this is the peak of the West Nile virus season. He recommended people try to prevent mosquito bites by avoiding being outside at dawn and dusk, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using mosquito repellent.