

Two dead from West Nile virus in Sutter; Butte cases up to five

Staff Reports (ChicoER.com)

Posted: 08/15/2014 02:08:14 PM

Two Sutter County women have died from West Nile virus. That would raise the number of West Nile deaths statewide to six, with one each in Shasta and Sacramento counties and two in Stansislaus.

The Sutter County Public Health Division reported the women died earlier this month, but provided no information as to location. One had the neuroinvasive form of WNV, the most severe form of the illness.

Meanwhile, Butte County reported three more human cases for a total of five. The Butte County Public health Department said all the cases are in people 50 years and older and three of those had neuroinvasive disease.

In addition 11 dead birds, 21 mosquito samples, and 18 sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus so far this year, establishing that the virus is widespread through the county and is circulating at high levels.

"Butte County residents are strongly encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites," stated Dr. Mark Lundberg, Butte County Health Officer.

Residents can reduce the risk of infection by practicing the "Three D's:"

1. DEET >> Use proven insect repellent like DEET. Other repellents that are recommended are picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.

2. DAWN AND DUSK >> Mosquitoes bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

3. DRAIN >> Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have standing water that cannot be drained "Mosquito Dunks" or mosquito fish can be used to control potential mosquito breeding sites. Suspected mosquito-breeding sites can be reported to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District by calling 533-6038 or 342-7350, or on-line at www.BCMVCD.com.

More information about the virus can be found online at www.westnile.ca.gov.