

West Nile Virus remains active in Butte County

Staff Reports (OrovilleMR.com)

Posted: 08/25/2014 12:31:17 PM PDT

Eleven people in Butte County have been diagnosed with West Nile virus, according to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

A press release issued by the district Monday said 34 groups of mosquitoes, 33 sentinel chickens, and 18 dead birds have all also been found to have the virus.

The virus has been identified in Chico, Hamilton City, Paradise, Oroville, Palermo, Honcut, Biggs, Gridley, Richvale, Nelson, and rural areas along the west side of Butte County, according to the press release.

With wide-spread distribution of the virus and increasing mosquito populations, the district urges draining any standing water and reporting any suspected mosquito-breeding sites. People should also wear long pants and long sleeve shirts as well as use mosquito repellent.

The mosquito-borne virus, which is deadly to horses and in rare cases can be very serious for humans, was first discovered in Butte County in 2004. Since then, 139 local people have had confirmed WNV infections.

Most people who contract West Nile Virus have no apparent do not develop any symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about one in five people who are infected will develop a fever and symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. In less than 1 percent of the human cases a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis will result, and about 10 percent of those who develop neurologic infection due to West Nile virus will die, according to the CDC.

While most West Nile virus-infected horses die, there is a vaccination for the equine version.

The public is asked to report any birds that may have been dead for less than 48 hours by calling 1-877-968-2473.