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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CONFIRMS ADDITIONAL HUMAN CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN 2014**

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — Three new cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported in Butte County in the past week, for a total of five cases to date in 2014. As of August 5, 2014, there have been a total of 35 cases of human WNV reported from 11 California counties. The geographical locations of the Butte County cases demonstrate that the risk is prevalent throughout the county. All of the cases in Butte County are in persons 50 years and older and three of those had neuroinvasive disease, the most severe form of the illness.

The increase in WNV infections is very concerning, with typical activity peaking in August and continuing into October. "Butte County residents are strongly encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites," stated Dr. Mark Lundberg, Butte County Health Officer.

Eight dead birds, 21 mosquito samples, and 14 sentinel chickens have tested positive for WNV so far this year, establishing that WNV is circulating at high levels. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District urges residents to take all precautions necessary to drain any and all un-needed standing water and to report any suspected mosquito-breeding sites to Butte County Vector Control. Reports can be made by phone at (530) 533-6038 or (530) 342-7350 or on-line at [www.BCMVCD.com](http://www.BCMVCD.com).

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. 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.

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For more information or to report a dead bird visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473). Residents can also track West Nile Virus activity in Butte County and neighboring counties on the website.

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For further information, contact: Dr. Mark Lundberg, Health Officer:  
Phone: (530) 538-7583 or E-mail: [mlundberg@buttecounty.net](mailto:mlundberg@buttecounty.net)

**Butte County Public Health Department**

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual, community, and environmental health.