



Public Health Administration

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Butte County First to Confirm Human West Nile Virus

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – The first human infections of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been confirmed in two residents of Butte County after a routine blood donation. These are the first human infections of WNV reported this year. Blood donation centers routinely check for viruses in the blood as a precautionary measure and do not retain any infected blood. The two people were unaware of their virus and are symptom free. Both infections are separate and unrelated to each other.

Reports as of July 15, 2015, WNV activity has been detected in 31 of California's 58 counties, with 152 non-human cases of WNV infection. In Butte County, one dead bird and 15 mosquito samples have tested positive for the virus this year. Mosquito sampling is done throughout the county by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, with a majority of the positive samples coming from the southern part of the county.

"This is a timely reminder that we must do our best to prevent mosquito bites and protect ourselves and our families from WNV. The public should take extra precautions to avoid mosquitoes," said Dr. Lundberg, Butte County Health Officer.

80% of people infected with WNV do not have symptoms. People 50 years of age and older are more likely to develop serious symptoms if infected, however, all ages are vulnerable. 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 Ds":

1. DEET – Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include: picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. 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. Wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that 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. For standing water, fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding "Mosquito Dunks" or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae. Report unmaintained swimming pools to the local Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 342-7350 or (530) 533-6038.

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For further information regarding this release, contact Lisa Almaguer, BCPHD Communications Manager.
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