



**Public Health Administration**

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***Reports of West Nile Virus Continue to Climb***

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – The Butte County Public Health Department (BCPHD) continues to get reports of West Nile Virus (WNV) cases throughout the county, with three of the eight human WNV cases in the state coming from Butte County. Many additional cases of WNV are under investigation by BCPHD. As of August 4, 2015, five of California's 58 counties have human WNV cases.

People infected with WNV generally fall into three categories: no symptoms (70-80%), flu like symptoms (1 in 5), and neurologic symptoms such as encephalitis or meningitis (1%). BCPHD has seen all levels of WNV symptoms this year, including an infected teenager that suffered from neuro-invasive disease, the most serious form of WNV. For those who develop neuro-invasive disease, recovery can take weeks or months.

"It's important to understand that anyone at any age can become infected with West Nile Virus. Butte County is showing higher numbers of WNV compared to last year. Make every effort to keep you and your family protected from getting mosquito bites," said Dr. Lundberg, Butte County Health Officer.

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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