

News Release



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SIGNIFICANT RISE IN WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY HEEDS CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC

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(STOCKTON, CA) – Although San Joaquin County experienced a cool spring with low mosquito populations, hot weather has caused a significant rise in mosquitoes. Subsequently, San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District's (District) surveillance and disease testing laboratory continues to report high West Nile virus (WNV) infection rates in collected mosquitoes. "The District is taking an aggressive approach to reducing mosquito populations; however with high infection rates in collected mosquito samples, we are notifying the public to take precautions, said Ed Lucchesi, Manager with the District. "Using EPA registered repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus are recommended to prevent mosquito bites and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease," said Lucchesi.

Other prevention tips include eliminating standing water and using mosquitofish in water troughs, neglected pools, and water features. Avoid being outdoors if mosquitoes are present. When appropriate, loose fitting long sleeves and pants help prevent mosquito bites. To reduce mosquitoes indoors, maintain good tight fitting screens on windows and doors.

West Nile virus is active throughout San Joaquin County and many parts of California. The District is actively trapping, testing, and spraying for mosquitoes.

For year to date in San Joaquin County, there are 89 mosquito samples, and 2 dead birds that have tested positive for WNV. In addition, there is one human case reported by our local public health department. For more information on human cases in San Joaquin County, call San Joaquin County Public Health Services at (209) 468-3411.

- Report significant mosquito problems including daytime biting mosquitoes to San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District at www.sjmosquito.org or call (209) 982-4675, 1-800-300-4675.
- Report dead birds to 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov.

For additional information, request service, request free mosquitofish, or to sign up for the District's spray notification system, go to www.sjmosquito.org

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