

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2007

MAILING ADDRESS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

8631 BOND ROAD
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

YOLO COUNTY

1234 FORTNA AVENUE
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022
FIGHTtheBITE.net

Contact: Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer
Office: 916.405.2082 | **Cell:** 916.416.6337
E-mail: jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net

MOSQUITO CONTROL WARNS THE PUBLIC!

--District Continues To Detect West Nile Virus-Positive Mosquitoes

ELK GROVE, Calif. -The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that six mosquito samples, one collected from Rio Linda and five from the Citrus Heights/Orangevale area, have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Two additional mosquito samples collected from South Sacramento County have preliminarily tested positive for WNV. Final confirmation for the two additional samples from South Sacramento County will be in on Wednesday, July 25 from the District. In response to the West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples, the District will continue to implement its Mosquito-Borne Disease Management plan to protect public health and welfare. This plan may include ground and/or aerial treatments where virus activity has been detected. The District routinely collects and tests adult mosquitoes throughout Sacramento and Yolo counties.

The District will also make every attempt to notify individuals who sign-up for the District's notification list via e-mail. However, the District may not be able to notify the public if immediate applications are needed to protect public health and welfare from serious diseases such as West Nile virus. The District may also cancel a scheduled operation due to weather and/or other reasons without prior notice. For a list of where West Nile virus activity has been detected in Sacramento and Yolo counties or for treatment updates please visit the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net and click on 2007 West Nile virus Activity.

"Over the last couple of weeks the District has witnessed the expansion of West Nile virus activity through dead birds, mosquito samples, sentinel chickens and one horse. It is critical that we continue to work together this season by preventing mosquito populations from growing. Rising temperatures the next couple of weeks will cause mosquito populations to increase dramatically," said District Manager David Brown. "We urge residents to drain all sources of standing water around the home, from buckets, flowerpots and wheelbarrows to tires, wading pools and bird baths. If you are going to be out when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn and dusk, make sure you apply an effective insect repellent. If you need assistance with mosquitoes please call us at 1-800-429-1022. We are here to help you," Brown said.

Additional links

1. David Brown's updates: FIGHTtheBITE.net/whoweare/
2. Adult mosquito treatment FAQs: FIGHTtheBITE.net/adulticide/faq.php
3. Adult mosquito treatments/schedules: FIGHTtheBITE.net/adulticide/
4. Level 3 West Nile virus Activity Alert: FIGHTtheBITE.net/mediacorner/plan.php
5. Sign-up for the District's spray notification via e-mail: FIGHTtheBITE.net/signup/

---MORE---

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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District's 7Ds of mosquito prevention: **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visiting the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

West Nile virus

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

2007 West Nile virus activity update

Level 3 – Sacramento County: 13 birds, 4 sentinel chickens, 1 horse, **25 mosquito samples** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 4 birds, 2 presumptive sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 1 mosquito sample and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

2006 West Nile virus activity

Sacramento County: 16 humans, 1 horse, 89 dead birds, 36 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 62 mosquito samples and 26 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

To **report a dead bird or squirrel** call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Public Health online at westnile.ca.gov

The **Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District** provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo counties.

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