

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SENTINEL CHICKEN TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS **--Mosquito Control Moves To Level 3**

Elk Grove, Calif. — The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) announced today that one sentinel chicken located in the Natomas area of Sacramento County tested positive for West Nile virus. There are a total of 15 sentinel chicken flocks of six chickens each in both Sacramento and Yolo counties and the District collects and tests blood samples on a weekly basis. When an infected mosquito bites a sentinel, the chicken will not become ill, instead it will develop antibodies toward the virus. The detection of such antibodies in chickens allows the District to track and monitor virus activity to be able to better reduce transmission to humans. "Finding the virus in sentinel chickens is a warning sign for residents that West Nile virus transmission is occurring," said Gary Goodman, District Assistant Manager "We recommend that community members take proper precautions such as draining standing water around the house and wearing an effective repellent during times of high mosquito activity," said Goodman.

As a result of finding the West Nile positive chicken, the District will continue to implement its mosquito management plan to protect public health and welfare. This plan includes extensive mosquito trapping around the area where the virus has been detected as well as ground and/or aerial treatments to reduce the numbers of adult mosquitoes.

For current information about any treatments planned, please visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. Residents may also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for mosquito treatments by zip code. To sign up go to Spray Notifications on the website.

2008 West Nile virus activity update:
Level 3--Sacramento County: 40 dead birds, 1 sentinel chickens, 120 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Level 2--Yolo County: 1 dead bird, 0 sentinel chickens, 1 mosquito sample and 0 humans.

Practice the District D's of Mosquito Prevention:
DRAIN standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
DAWN and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors.
DRESS appropriately be wearing long sleeves and pants when outside.
DEFEND yourself by using an effective insect repellent. Make sure to follow label directions!
DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition.
DISTRICT personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. Call them at 1-800-429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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