

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS CONTINUES THROUGHOUT SACRAMENTO COUNTY **--Residents Are Urged To Protect Themselves As State Fair Begins**

Elk Grove, Calif.— West Nile Virus continues to be a risk throughout Sacramento County and as the State Fair gets underway tomorrow residents are urged to protect themselves against mosquitoes. Last week, the first two human cases were confirmed for Sacramento County and the possibility for more infections is high. “These human cases should be a wake-up call to all residents that West Nile virus can affect anyone” said David Brown, District Manager. The two confirmed cases were of a 29 year old female and a 33 year old male who were both hospitalized with neuroinvasive disease. These cases were found in North Sacramento County where virus activity has amplified recently with the finding of multiple positive mosquito samples. “Protecting public health is our top priority, but we need residents to do their part,” said Brown. “As you’re out enjoying fair activities around dusk when mosquitoes are active, please use an effective repellent to avoid being bitten,” said Brown. Mosquito repellent will be available **free** of charge to the public at the State Fair. Free samples can be picked up at the Insect Pavilion and the main Information Booth.

Though West Nile virus activity has been steady in all parts of the county, including a recent finding in downtown Sacramento, near Capitol Park, communities of highest risk include Citrus Heights, Antelope, North Highlands and Orangevale.” We’re in the middle of mosquito season, virus activity is heavy and anyone can be a target,” said Brown. The District will continue to monitor the spread of the disease through extensive surveillance and conducting treatments where interventions are needed.

Tips to prevent mosquitoes during the State Fair and summer weeks ahead include: **DRAIN** standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. **DRESS** appropriately by 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

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 5--Sacramento County: 67 dead birds, 5 sentinel chickens, 186 mosquito samples and 2 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Level 2--Yolo County: 4 dead bird, 0 sentinel chickens, 4 mosquito samples and 0 humans.

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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