

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS RISK INCREASES IN SOUTH SACRAMENTO COUNTY
--Elder Creek and Elk Grove Continue to be Hot Spots

Elk Grove, Calif.— Risk of West Nile virus continues to be high in South Sacramento, especially in the areas of Elder Creek and Elk Grove. In recent days, the finding of many infected mosquito pools has District officials worried as virus activity continues to amplify. “We’re still seeing an increase in the virus and the risk of human transmission is high” said David Brown, District Manager. “Residents need to be aware and proactive in protecting themselves because anyone can become infected.” In recent weeks, Sacramento County has registered 4 human cases including a 10 year old child and neighboring San Joaquin County has 5 cases. “Other years, the number of infected mosquito samples and virus activity had started to decrease by now,” said Brown. “This season is a bit different because we’re not seeing a decline yet and this is cause for worry”. With warm temperatures expected over the next few days, the concerns are greater since it takes less time for the mosquito life cycle to be completed and this means more adult mosquitoes will be out looking to bite. As a response to the heightened activity, the District will continue with larval treatments as well as ground and truck mounted fogging where interventions are needed. Extensive surveillance and monitoring will also continue.

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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The District is urging all residents to inspect their homes for any stagnant water. Public cooperation is still needed to identify and report neglected swimming pools that may be producing mosquitoes and infecting entire neighborhoods

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.

2008 West Nile virus activity update:

Level 5--Sacramento County: 74 dead birds, 6 sentinel chickens, 231 mosquito samples and 4 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Level 2--Yolo County: 4 dead bird, 0 sentinel chickens, 5 mosquito samples 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

