

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIRST HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASE IN YOLO COUNTY
--Protection Against Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus Is Still Important

Elk Grove, Calif.— Yolo County has reported its first human West Nile virus case for the season. A man from West Sacramento was hospitalized after suffering from West Nile fever. "This human case is another warning sign that mosquitoes are still active and the risk of infection is still very real," said David Brown, manager for the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District. Even though temperatures have dropped, mosquito season is not over. This week the first horse case of West Nile was also reported in Yolo County and many infected mosquito samples have been found in different areas of both Sacramento and Yolo counties. "We're not seeing a huge decline in mosquito activity yet which means people still need to be vigilant," said Brown. "As people enjoy the cooler weather outdoors, especially around dusk when mosquitoes are most active, it remains critical that you protect yourself and your family with an effective insect repellent."

The District is also urging all residents to inspect their homes on a weekly basis to drain any standing water and ensure they are not producing mosquitoes. It's also important to maintain any water features in their yards and report any neglected swimming pools which can produce hundreds of mosquitoes and affect entire neighborhoods.

To date, 163 West Nile virus cases have been reported in 21 counties throughout California and 3 deaths have occurred.

2008 West Nile virus activity update:

Level 5--Sacramento County: 5 humans, 270 mosquito samples, 96 dead birds, 6 sentinel chickens, and 1 horse have tested positive for WNV to date.

Level 4--Yolo County: 1 human, 17 mosquito samples, 6 dead birds, 1 horse and 0 sentinel chickens have tested positive for WNV to date.

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 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

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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