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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SAC-YOLO MOSQUITO CONTROL ANNOUNCES EVENT SCHEDULE FOR  
MOSQUITO AND WEST NILE VIRUS AWARENESS WEEK, APRIL 23 - 29**  
*--SYMVCD Continues to Educate and Inform Community*

**WHO:** The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District

**WHAT:** Event schedule for Mosquito and West Nile virus Awareness Week, April 23 – April 29

**WHEN: Tuesday, April 24** – Repellent distribution to local homeless shelter

**Wednesday, April 25** – Fight the Bite and Volunteer!

**Friday, April 27** – Starve a mosquito, give blood today. Blood drive hosted by the BloodSource

**Saturday, April 28**– FREE Fight the Bite K-3 Teacher Workshop

For **photo opportunity**, please contact Jennifer Benito at 916.405.2082 or e-mail at jbenito@fightthebite.net.

**West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control (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 1** - This year, 0 birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito samples 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, 34 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 64 mosquito samples and 26 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

To sign up for the District's **urban spray** notification via e-mail log onto FIGHTtheBITE.net/signup

To report a **dead bird or squirrel** call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services 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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