

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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October 19, 2012



Press Release

Subject: West Nile Virus Activity Persists as Mosquito Season Winds Down

Date: October 18, 2012

Reporting agency: Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Despite the fact that mosquito control efforts and cooler temperatures have dramatically reduced mosquito populations in the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District, fifteen dead birds and two samples of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) since the beginning of October. "As long as a few infected mosquitoes are still active in the environment, people should take reasonable precautions to avoid exposure to mosquitoes while outdoors, particularly around dusk and dawn," said Vector Ecologist, John Albright. He added that the types of mosquitoes that spread WNV will no longer feed and breed once nighttime temperatures consistently stay below 50 degrees.

"The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District will continue to monitor mosquito populations as long as any evidence of WNV persists in the environment," said District Manager, Peter Bonkrude. "Our field technicians are continuing to seek out and treat areas of standing water where mosquito breeding is continuing." So far in 2012, Shasta County leads the state of California in horse cases with four, including one that was euthanized. Other WNV indicators in 2012 include one reported human case, 36 positive dead birds, 17 mosquito samples, six sentinel chickens, and one squirrel that have been found positive for WNV widely dispersed throughout the District.

The District requests that residents check their properties for mosquito sources and report any neglected standing water, including neglected swimming pools. Residents can also report suspect dead birds to the District or to the California Dead Bird

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Our Mission: "To protect the public's health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency".

Hotline: (877) WNV-BIRD. The District cannot test all dead birds for WNV; however, the District keeps records of all of the potential indicators of WNV and their locations to help direct surveillance and control activities.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the public to implement the 3 Ds of protection:

Drain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.

Defend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and dressing protectively when outside and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.

Contact the **D**istrict for any additional help controlling mosquitoes around your home

For more information, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or www.shastamosquito.org

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

2012 Shasta County West Nile virus activity update: **36** dead birds, **6** sentinel chicken, **17** mosquito samples, **1** tree squirrel, **1** human and **4** horses have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

California virus activity update: **1,511** dead birds, **463** sentinel chickens, **2,704** mosquito samples, **20** horses and **266** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to 10/12/2012. A total of **11** human fatalities (4.1% of cases in 2012) have been reported this year in California as of 10/12/2012.

U.S. virus activity update: Nationwide the CDC reports that human incidents of WNV in the US are the highest they have been since 2003 with **4,531** human cases, including **183** fatalities (4%) as of 10/16/2012.

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