



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3rd, 2017

CONTINUED WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD) confirmed that four sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) antibodies. *This is a sign of increased risk to people from West Nile virus.* The chickens are part of a flock located east of Redding, CA.

The District maintains several chicken flocks in various parts of the District as disease sentinels. Blood samples are collected from these chickens and tested every two weeks. "Even though temperatures are dropping, we are still actively trapping mosquitoes that have the potential to transmit West Nile virus. If you plan to be outside during dusk or dawn, it is imperative you continue to protect yourself from mosquito bites," cautioned Peter Bonkrude, District Manager of the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District.

The District is still actively conducting both larval and adult mosquito control, based on their routine surveillance. Despite the season having lower West Nile virus positive indicators than 2016, the risk still remains for Shasta County residents.

SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites; reducing activity during the peak mosquito feeding times at dawn and dusk, wearing effective insect repellent, and staying behind screened windows and doors whenever possible.

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the public to implement the **4-Ds** of protection:

- **D**rain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- **D**usk or **D**awn avoid outside activities.
- **D**ress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

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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".

- **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.**

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus or new emerging mosquito borne diseases like Zika virus, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.shastamosquito.org

2017 Shasta County West Nile virus activity update: **2** dead bird, **4** sentinel chickens, **0** mosquito sample, and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date. Statewide virus activity update: **43** Counties with WNV activity, **428** dead birds, **264** sentinel chickens, **3,182** mosquito samples, and **211** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to 9/29/2017.

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