



# SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19th, 2018

### ***First Indication of West Nile Virus Activity in Shasta County***

The first indication of West Nile virus (WNV) for 2018 has been reported in Shasta County in two positive mosquito samples collected in the Northern Anderson and Central Redding area. “Despite knowing that West Nile virus will be in Shasta County at some level for the foreseeable future, it is important that residents take these indicators seriously and do what they can to prevent mosquito bites,” stated Peter Bonkrude, District Manager of the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District. “July and August will continue to produce warm temperatures, increasing the potential for West Nile virus transmission,” added Bonkrude. In addition, the District is asking that residents eliminate any potential mosquito sources on their property to help in the reduction of adult mosquitoes.

West Nile virus continues to exhibit levels statewide that are similar to previous years, with positive WNV indicators throughout California counties. Due to this increase in WNV transmission, the District has augmented surveillance and treatment of larval and adult mosquitoes in the affected areas.

SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by 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.

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

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flower pots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **Defend** yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent, dressing protectively when outside and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.

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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”.*

- **Dusk** or Dawn avoid outside activities.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

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](http://www.shastamosquito.org)

**2018** Shasta County West Nile virus activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **2** mosquito samples, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus. California West Nile virus activity: **67** dead birds, **7** sentinel chickens, **171** mosquito samples, and **10** humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

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