



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24th, 2020

First Indication of West Nile Virus Activity in Shasta County

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District have confirmed the first indication of West Nile virus activity in Shasta County. The positive tests came from samples of adult mosquitoes that the District routinely collects as part of their surveillance program. "Although we have found evidence of West Nile activity every year since 2004, when active transmission is found, the risk to our residents increases," stated Peter Bonkrude, District Manager. "We anticipate continued temperatures that are conducive to mosquito production for the next few months, so it is imperative people take steps to prevent mosquito bites," 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 be present throughout the state, 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.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **4 Ds** of protection:

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flowerpots, 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 and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **Dusk** or Dawn avoid outside activities.

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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".

- 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, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

2020 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: **41** dead birds, **1** sentinel chickens, **251** mosquito samples, and **2** humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

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