



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE RECORD WEST NILE ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD) advises Shasta County residents that West Nile virus is now widespread throughout the District. Since our first reported WNV positive, the virus has now been detected in five (5) birds, eight (8) sentinel chickens and thirty-six (36) mosquito samples. This year the District has collected a record number of positive mosquito samples in all parts of the District. This suggests that the disease is not just prevalent within the mosquito populations, but also geographically widespread. "Peak West Nile virus activity will likely persist until fall weather decreases mosquito breeding and disease transmission. In the meantime everyone needs to be vigilant about avoiding mosquito bites," says Vector Ecologist John Albright. People can become infected with WNV if they are bitten by an infected mosquito. Elevated WNV risk will continue until cooler temperatures reduce mosquito breeding and slow disease transmission.

"The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District continues to perform enhanced mosquito control in areas where samples indicate ongoing WNV activity," stated District Manager Peter Bonkrude. This year in California, thirty-six (36) people have contracted West Nile virus and one of those was a fatality. There are no confirmed human cases in Shasta County at the time of this release (8/19/2015)

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 advises the public to implement the 4-Ds of protection:

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

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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".

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

2015 Shasta County West Nile virus activity update: **5** dead birds, **8** sentinel chickens, **36** mosquito samples, **0** horse and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date (8/19/2015). Statewide virus activity update: **418** dead birds, **104** sentinel chickens, **1577** mosquito samples, and **36** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to August 19th, 2015.

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