



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

DATE: June 2, 2020
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DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

Stanislaus County – The Turlock Mosquito and Eastside Mosquito Abatement Districts (MADs) confirmed the detection of West Nile Virus (WNV) in two mosquito samples from Stanislaus County. This is the first detection of WNV for both Districts in 2020. As of June 1st, 2020, WNV has been detected in 6 California counties with the WNV activity confirmed in 6 dead birds, 4 mosquito samples, and no human cases. There have been no WNV human cases or dead birds from Stanislaus County.

Since the arrival of WNV in Stanislaus county in 2006, this is the earliest detection of the virus in mosquitoes for the Districts. These WNV infected mosquitoes serve as a reminder that the Districts and residents need to remain diligent in preventing mosquito breeding and disease transmission. Turlock MAD General Manager David Heft stated, "The late rains and increased temperatures will hasten the development of West Nile virus in the Central Valley. We urge residents to dump and drain any items around their home that may hold standing water and to use repellent when outside in the dawn and dusk hours."

The Districts will continue with their surveillance programs identifying mosquito breeding sources and mosquito borne disease activity. They will treat according to their surveillance results. The Districts anticipate more WNV and mosquitoes in the coming months and would like to remind residents they can help by taking the following precautions:

- Dump or drain standing water. These are places mosquitoes like to lay their eggs.
- Defend yourself against mosquitoes by using repellants containing DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn. These are the times when WNV carrying mosquitoes are generally most active.
- Report Neglected Swimming pools to your local mosquito abatement district.
- Use tight fitting door and window screens to keep mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Contact your veterinarian for information on vaccinating equine against WNV.

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For additional information or to request service, residents should contact their local District Stanislaus County MADs:

- North of the Tuolumne River contact:
Eastside Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 522-4098 (www.eastsidemosquito.com)
- South of the Tuolumne River contact:
Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 634-1234 (www.turlockmosquito.org)

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