



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Mary Ann Lee
Managing Director

830 Scenic Drive, P.O. Box 3271, Modesto, CA 95353
Fax: (209) 558-8320
www.hsahealth.org

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CONTACT: Phoebe Leung
PHONE: (209) 558-7163

WNV Signs Increasing: Remember the Bug Spray for the Holiday!

STANISLAUS COUNTY – West Nile Virus activity in Stanislaus County has recently increased, and health officials are reporting that 15 birds tested positive for the virus in the last week. Most of the WNV activity has been reported in the 95350 and 95355 zip codes in the central areas of Modesto. Ceres also has confirmed cases of WNV in birds, and mosquito samples have tested positive around Turlock, Patterson, and Oakdale.

“We have increased and targeted our spraying,” says the Mosquito Abatement Districts’ managers, Jerry Davis and Lloyd Douglas.

So far this year, the number of birds in the county that have tested positive for WNV is up to 24. Both the Eastside and Turlock Mosquito Abatement Districts have been monitoring mosquito activity and treating areas where mosquitoes are abundant.

“As people head outdoors for Independence Day activities, it is extremely important that they use mosquito repellent to protect themselves from mosquito bites and prevent becoming infected with West Nile Virus,” said Dr. John Walker, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. “With all of the outdoor activities—especially as the sun sets and fireworks begin—people need to remember the bug spray for the holiday.”

Insect repellent should be applied any time you go outside, but it is especially important when mosquitoes are most active just after sundown and just before sunrise. To be effective, repellent should contain DEET, Picaridin, or lemon oil of Eucalyptus. When you must go outdoors, wear long pants and sleeves, and other protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.

Keeping your environment clear of mosquito-breeding grounds is always a good plan, and the best way to do that is to simply eliminate sources of standing water. Some examples of this include: not over-watering your lawn or garden, changing water in pet dishes and bird baths on a regular basis, and dumping any standing water out of backyard toys, flower pots and garbage cans.

To report a dead bird, call the California State hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD or report it online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Birds of particular interest to the state are crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors (hawk or eagle).

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To report mosquito-breeding problem areas, Stanislaus County residents should contact one of the two mosquito abatement districts that serve the county. For Stanislaus County addresses north of the Tuolumne River, residents should call the Eastside Mosquito Abatement District at 522-4098 and all others should contact the Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at 634-1234.

For more information, call the West Nile virus hotline at (209) 558-8425 to hear recorded information in both English and Spanish. You can also visit www.stanemergency.com for WNV information. The website includes maps showing locations of WNV-infected mosquito samples, dead birds, and horses.

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