



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

NUMBER: 09-10
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

DATE: June 16, 2009
CONTACT: Phoebe Leung
PHONE: (209) 558-7116

2009 First Dead Bird Found with West Nile Virus in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County - East Side Mosquito Abatement District and Public Health officials received notification that the first West Nile Virus (WNV) positive bird for Stanislaus County was reported on June 2, 2009 in the City of Modesto. The bird was identified as an American crow. Birds such as the American crow, blue jays, and yellow-billed magpies are species most often found infected with WNV. So far this year, 21 dead birds have been tested for WNV in Stanislaus County.

To date, WNV has been detected in 40 dead birds and 49 mosquito samples in 12 out of 58 California counties. There have been no reported human infections so far this year. In California in 2008, a total of 445 human WNV infections were reported in 26 counties, including 15 deaths, and the virus was detected in 49 out of 58 counties.

When the District receives reports that a bird is infected with WNV, baited traps are set to determine mosquito populations and if any in the area are infected with WNV. If trapping results warrant, the District will control the mosquitoes by using a public health adulticide that contains pyrethrin which is registered for spraying in and around residences. "Neglected swimming pools are difficult to find and are the primary breeding source of mosquito species carrying WNV. Residents need to take an active part in reducing their risk of getting WNV by eliminating standing water around their homes, keeping their pools in good working order, and reporting neglected pools. People are advised to use insect repellents where mosquitoes are active and report dead birds," says Manager Lloyd Douglass. The District will continue its WNV surveillance and control both immature and adult mosquito stages to lower the public's risk of contracting WNV.

Questions or concerns may be directed to the local Mosquito Abatement District. In Stanislaus County, north of the Tuolumne River call East Side Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 522-4098. All other residents may call Turlock Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 634-1234.

The public can report dead birds to the California Department of Health Services by logging on to <http://westnile.ca.gov/cfm/deadbird.cfm> or by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

- continued -

All horse owners are urged to consult their veterinarians about proper and timely WNV vaccinations. In 2008, 32 equine WNV infections were reported statewide. Of the 17 horses that died or were euthanized, most were not vaccinated.

For more information about WNV, please visit the following websites:

www.westnile.ca.gov - California State Department of Health Services

www.stanemergency.com – Stanislaus County - for information on how to protect yourself and your property

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm> - National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

###