



Shasta County West Nile Virus Task Force  
Contact: John Albright at 365-3768  
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## NEWS RELEASE

August 29, 2008

### First Human West Nile Virus Infection of 2008 Identified in Shasta County

Shasta County, CA – Shasta County Public Health has received the first report of a confirmed human case for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Shasta County this year. So far, there have been 103 human cases in California in 2008. The Shasta County resident appears to have acquired WNV in Shasta County. The adult had West Nile Fever and is recovering.

“It is important to remember that West Nile Virus is here to stay in Shasta County,” said Lou Anne Cummings, MD, MPH, Deputy Health Officer. “Last year, most of the human cases were in the late summer months, but risk may extend well into the fall until the first frost. It is important to make prevention of mosquito bites part of your outdoor routine.”

West Nile Virus disease is uncommon, but if you have symptoms including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately.

During the 2008 WNV season in Shasta County, six positive dead birds have been reported to the California Department of Public Health. In 2007, there were nine human cases of West Nile Virus in Shasta County.

WNV is almost always transmitted to people from the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV is not transmitted from person to person, nor from horses or other animals to humans. Shasta County residents are urged make effective mosquito repellent a part of their regular outdoor routine. Three other mosquito repellents besides DEET are also recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use as repellents on skin and clothing: Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535. Always follow instructions on containers carefully.

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Dedicated to protecting Shasta County from West Nile Virus

Blood Source Northstate

Burney Basin Mosquito Abatement  
District

California Department of Food and  
Agriculture, division of Animal Health

Calif. Dept. of Public Health  
Vector Borne Disease Section

Haven Humane

Northern California Veterinary  
Medical Association

Pine Grove Abatement District

Redding Animal Regulation

Shasta County:

- Administrative Office
- Agriculture Commissioner
- Department of Resource  
Management, division of  
Environmental Health
- Public Health
- Sheriff's Animal Regulation

Shasta Blood Center

Shasta Mosquito and Vector  
Control District

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and  
Rehabilitation

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The most important things that individuals can do are described as the four Ds:

- DRAIN standing water around the house weekly since it's where mosquitoes lay eggs, including: tires, cans, flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, toys and puddles.
- DUSK & DAWN are when mosquitoes that carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activities or take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.
- DEET is one of several effective ingredients to look for in insect repellents. Always follow label instructions carefully.
- DRESS in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where mosquitoes are active.

Of special concern this year are the high numbers of foreclosed homes with neglected swimming pools. Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District have located and treated over 177 neglected pools this summer. Neighbors or others who are aware of neglected pools or other standing water sources can call their local mosquito control district. Anything that will hold water for more than a few days can breed mosquitoes that can spread West Nile Virus.

If there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work in Shasta County, contact Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (serving most of Shasta County except Burney and Fall River Mills) at 365-3768, the Burney Mosquito Abatement District (serving Burney Basin) at 335-2133, and the Pine Grove Mosquito Abatement District (serving Fall River Valley) at 336-5740.

Residents are encouraged to help track West Nile Virus by reporting recently dead birds to the state hotline at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or visit the web site at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>. Though not all birds can be picked up for testing, all calls are important to help track West Nile Virus in Shasta County. Dead birds not collected for testing should be picked up with a plastic bag and put into household garbage and not touched.

Vaccinations for horses are available. Contact your veterinarian to vaccinate your horse correctly.

For more information about human West Nile Virus infection, contact Shasta County Public Health at 225-5591 during regular business hours or visit [www.shastapublichealth.net](http://www.shastapublichealth.net).

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### **For more information on West Nile Virus:**

#### **Shasta County Public Health:**

*General information about WNV human infection, educational materials and references to other resources:*

Web Site: [www.shastapublichealth.net](http://www.shastapublichealth.net)

Health Information Line: (530) 229-8461

#### **Local Mosquito and Vector Control Districts:**

*For information about spraying insecticide and Mosquito activity surveillance efforts in your area contact:*

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (serving most of Shasta County except Burney and Fall River Mills) at (530) 365-3768

Web Site: <http://www.shamosquito.org/>

Burney Mosquito Abatement District (serving Burney Basin) at 335-2133

Pine Grove Mosquito Abatement District (serving Fall River Valley) at 336-5740

#### **California Department of Public Health**

*General information about WNV and human infection, most recent press release, current number of cases in California, and to report a dead bird:*

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

General Information: (866) 847-2246

To Report Dead Birds: (877) WNV-BIRD OR the following web site

Website: <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

*General information about WNV (in English and other languages), map of WNV activity in the U.S., insect repellent and human infection:*

5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Monday – Friday; 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PST, Weekends

English/Spanish and for Clinicians: (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY Toll-free: (866) 874-2646

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

#### **National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC):**

*Information about spraying insecticide:*

6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. seven days a week

1-800-858-7378

Web Site: <http://npic.orst.edu>

Brochure: <http://npic.orst.edu/brochure.pdf>

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