



Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District

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News Release: West Nile Virus Detected in City of Kingsburg

August 21, 2015

Contact: Steve Mulligan, District Manager

Steve Mulligan, District Manager of the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District (District), reports that two samples of mosquitoes collected from the City of Kingsburg have tested positive for West Nile virus (WN). This is the first indication of WN activity within the City in 2015. A total of 54 samples of mosquitoes collected within Fresno County have tested positive for WN. There have been 57 confirmed human cases of WN this year in California, with two fatalities; although no human WN infections have been confirmed in Fresno County. Last year there were 801 confirmed human WN infections in the State, with 31 related fatalities; and in Fresno County 43 people were infected, with no fatalities.

West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who are infected with WN will not experience any illness. Approximately 20% of infected individuals will have mild to moderate, flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. Less than 1% of individuals will develop serious neurologic illnesses, such as encephalitis or meningitis, and this neuro-invasive illness can be life threatening. Older persons and those with compromised immune systems, diabetes, or hypertension are more susceptible to serious illness.

Since WN is once again present in our area, it is important that people take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. The types of mosquitoes that can carry the virus are most active throughout the evening and night, from dusk until dawn. People should avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are active, especially the first two hours after sunset. Anyone outside during these times should wear loose fitting, long sleeve shirts and long pants and apply insect repellent to exposed skin. Effective repellents are those containing the active ingredients DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535, as recommended by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Always read and follow labeled instructions carefully.

In order to reduce the threat from mosquitoes and from West Nile virus, the District urges community help and support in eliminating mosquito production around homes, businesses and farms, especially from backyard sources. Residents can help eliminate mosquitoes by dumping and draining containers that hold water around homes, farms or places of business. Report unmaintained or "green" swimming pools, which are a major source of mosquitoes in residential areas. Farmers should not allow irrigation water to stand in fields for more than three days to prevent mosquito production. Diligence and a reasonable amount of effort on the part of the public are necessary to protect the community by preventing the occurrence of mosquitoes.

Community health, comfort and prosperity are promoted by effective, continuous mosquito abatement measures.

The District makes treatments of registered insecticides to control mosquitoes in cities and in areas throughout the District, and will continue these operations during the mosquito season. These treatments may include the spraying of an aerosol insecticide fog at night in residential areas to control adult mosquitoes.

For more information about the District and for an updated map of West Nile virus activity, visit the District website at www.mosquitobuzz.net .

People can contact the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District in Selma if they have a mosquito problem, to report an unmaintained swimming pool or water feature, or if they need assistance in eliminating mosquito sources from around their premises. The District will provide mosquitofish for swimming pools, backyard ponds or horse troughs. These services are free of charge. The telephone numbers are 559-896-1085 or 1-800-821-1577. Website is www.mosquitobuzz.net .

While there is no vaccine to protect people against WN, vaccines are available for horses. Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarian for guidance. Dead or ill birds may indicate WN, so report such birds to the WN Dead Bird Program at 1-877-968-2473 or online at www.westnile.ca.gov .