



**County of Fresno**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Positive West Nile Virus Human Infections Confirmed in Fresno County**

The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) has confirmed three (3) asymptomatic human infections of West Nile virus (WNV) in 2024. The three infections were identified through routine testing of blood donors. Additionally, Mosquito Abatement Districts (MAD) in Fresno County have reported that 56 mosquito samples have tested positive for (WNV) this year. The number of human WNV cases is expected to increase as the mosquito season is in full force this time of year.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in 2023, there were 433 reported symptomatic human WNV cases in California, including 19 deaths, as well as 40 asymptomatic infections in blood donors. Since WNV was first introduced into California in 2003, there have been more than 8,000 human WNV cases and more than 390 WNV-related deaths across the state.

“We need to stay vigilant as mosquitoes may continue to cause severe illnesses, including WNV infection, which can require hospitalization and intensive care,” says Dr. Rais Vohra, Fresno County Interim Health Officer.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes and contracting WNV, Fresno County residents are urged to take the following precautions:

- Apply an EPA registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active and follow the label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes and repair or replace screens that have holes.
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home.
- Contact your MAD to report poorly maintained swimming pools or water features that appear green.

Residents can also call their MAD representative or visit [www.fresnocountymosquito.org](http://www.fresnocountymosquito.org) for more information on how to protect their family, their home, and their community from WNV and other mosquito borne illnesses.

WNV is transmitted when mosquitos bite birds infected with WNV and then bite humans. To report dead birds and for information on WNV activity in California, visit the CDPH website at <https://westnile.ca.gov/> or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

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***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

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