



Public Health Administration

Cathy A. Raevsky, Director
Andy Miller, M.D., Health Officer

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.552.4000
F: 530.538.2164

buttecounty.net/publichealth

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First Human West Nile Virus Death of 2018 Confirmed in Butte County

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County Public Health Department (BCPHD) has confirmed a death due to complications of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection. This marks the first human WNV death in 2018 for Butte County. The individual, who became symptomatic in mid-August, was between the ages of 50-70 years old and lived in southern Butte County. The infection was confirmed last Friday as the most severe form of WNV, neuro-invasive disease.

As of September 24th, 2018, 100 human cases from 25 of California's 58 counties have reported WNV this year. Four WNV related deaths have been reported from the following counties: Butte, Glenn, Yolo and Yuba. In Butte County, the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District reports three dead birds, 33 sentinel chickens and 47 positive mosquito pools.

People infected with WNV generally fall into three categories: no symptoms (70-80%), flu like symptoms (1 in 5), and nerve related symptoms such as encephalitis or meningitis (1%). For those who develop a neurologic illness, recovery can take weeks or months. People between the ages of 18-49 experienced the most number of cases (fever and nerve related), while people age 60 and older experienced the most number of severe cases resulting in nerve related symptoms.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Residents can reduce the risk of infection by practicing the "Three Ds":

1. DEET – Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include: picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
2. DAWN AND DUSK – Mosquitoes bite in the early morning and evening. Wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
3. DRAIN – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. For standing water, fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding "Mosquito Dunks" or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae. Report unmaintained swimming pools to the local Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 342-7350 or (530) 533-6038.

For more information about WNV, visit Butte County's [West Nile Virus website](#).

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Media Contact: [Lisa Almaquer](#), BCPHD Communications Manager, 530.552.4041