



NEWS RELEASE

Butte County Public Health Department
695 Oleander Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
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www.buttecountypublichealth.org

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FOR RELEASE:	IMMEDIATE	CONTACT:	Carmen Ochoa (530) 891-2732

WEST NILE VIRUS "BIRD DIE OFF" HITS BUTTE COUNTY, SECOND HUMAN CASE CONFIRMED

Butte County Public Health Department officials received confirmation that a second Butte County resident has been identified as positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) infection. The adult woman is recovering from the illness. In addition, confirmation was received on August 3, 2005, that 17 dead birds from Butte County were positive for WNV. The dead birds were picked up from Berry Creek, Chico, Oroville and Paradise. This "bird die off" signals that WNV is now present throughout Butte County and county residents are urged to follow these WNV prevention measures:

- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors at dusk or dawn, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, sock and shoes.
- Apply insect repellent with DEET, picaridin or lemon oil of eucalyptus according to label instructions. These three repellent products have been tested and are recommended by the Center for Disease Control for use.
- Make sure that household doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.
- Ultrasonic devices are NOT considered effective in preventing mosquito bites.

WNV affects the central nervous system and symptoms vary. Mild symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days or several weeks. However, WNV can be severe in the elderly and individuals with stressed immune systems. Severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent. If you have symptoms that you are concerned about, contact your doctor, or clinic. Most people with mild symptoms will likely not be tested for West Nile Virus. Doctors are testing patients who present with a history of exposure to West Nile Virus, and symptoms of prolonged and/or severe illness.

To report a bird which is freshly dead, go on-line at www.westnile.ca.gov or call toll- free 1-877-968-2473. Do not touch the bird. You will receive information about whether the bird will be collected for testing or whether you should dispose of the bird. Your call provides important information about how WNV is spreading in the County.

Pick-up an informative brochure on West Nile Virus at any of the following Butte County Public Health Department Offices or Clinics:

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695 Oleander Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

78 Table Mountain Blvd.
Oroville, CA

2445 Carmichael Drive
Chico, CA 95928

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, CA

For further information call:

- Butte County Public Health Department 891-2732 (Chico),
538-7553 (Oroville)
1-800-339-2941 (English, Spanish,
Hmong, Toll Free)
- Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control: 533-6038
- Durham Mosquito Abatement District: 345-2875
- Oroville Abatement District: 534-8383

Informative websites on WNV include the following:

- Butte County Public Health Department: www.buttecountypublichealth.org
- California Department of Health Services: www.westnile.ca.gov/
- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

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