



NEWS RELEASE

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WEST NILE VIRUS ON THE RISE IN BUTTE COUNTY “FIGHT THE BITE WITH MOSQUITO REPELLENT STATIONS” PROVIDED BY BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To date, there are five confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Butte County. A sixth case is currently under investigation. The total number of WNV positive dead birds is 43, compared to a total of 24 last week. The number of confirmed positive equine cases has increased to four. With the recent rise in WNV activity, the Butte County Public Health Department is providing mosquito repellent stations.

Organizations sponsoring evening events can pick-up mosquito repellent stations to help protect participants against West Nile Virus. The mosquito repellent stations come stocked with a variety of repellents containing lemon Eucalyptus oil or DEET. Educational materials for participants at the outdoor community events are also provided. For information about how you can obtain a mosquito repellent station please call the Butte County Public Health Department at 538-7553 or 538-6711.

Dr. Mark Lundberg, Health Officer, urges the community to protect themselves against West Nile Virus by reducing their contact with mosquitoes. “There are several preventive measures that can be taken to prevent or avoid West Nile Virus, but for active individuals, staying indoors at dusk and dawn may not be feasible,” Dr. Lundberg

stated. Remember to protect yourself from mosquito bites, having insect repellent available and using it helps to ensure protection from mosquito bites at outdoor events or whenever you are outside for long periods of time.

Insect Repellent Stations are perfect for anyone organizing a public outdoor event, especially an event where participants will be outside at dusk. Ideal venues are sporting events, fundraisers and outdoor community gatherings. Event patrons will be given the opportunity to use Center for Disease Control sanctioned insect repellents for protection against mosquito bites. Event organizers will be expected to monitor the insect repellent stations while they are in use. Educational materials will be provided to ensure the repellents are applied in accordance with label directions. Tips to protect yourself against West Nile Virus will also be provided.

Event organizers are encouraged to contact the Butte County Public Health Department at 538-7553, or 538-6711 to receive an insect repellent station. You can help Butte County prevent West Nile Virus infection by fighting the bite!

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