

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 11, 2025

FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS IN SHASTA MVCD THIS YEAR

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) confirmed the first mosquito sample to test positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in Shasta County for 2025. The batch of mosquitoes sampled were detected in Northeast Redding.

Our staff routinely trap and monitor mosquito populations throughout the District and test those samples for diseases, including WNV, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis. We use those results to analyze the risks of disease transmission for our residents and to respond with strategic control measures in the most safe, effective, and timely manner possible to protect public health in our county.

In response to these results, District staff will be taking immediate action. By increasing immature mosquito monitoring in the area, we aim to find mosquito habitats and stop their growth in the water. Additionally, to disrupt the virus transmission cycle, the District will be conducting <u>ultra-low volume (ULV)</u> <u>adult mosquito control</u> in the areas where mosquito activity and potential transmission risk continues.

Residents may receive email or text notifications for upcoming adult mosquito treatments. To sign-up, go to Mosquito Control Notifications on our website.

"The mosquitoes that can transmit WNV in our area thrive in these triple-digit temperatures, with accelerated mosquito growth and increased disease development," stated Darcy Little, District Manager. "A mosquito can go from an egg in the water to a flying adult mosquito in just 5-7 days."

As the days continue with high temperatures and residents spend an increased amount of time outdoors during dusk and dawn, the risk of mosquito bites also increases. SMVCD is charged with protecting the health of the District residents from mosquito and vector-borne diseases, but they cannot do it alone.

SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **4 Ds** of protection:

- Drain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, including old tires, buckets, gutters, flowerpots and saucers. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- Defend yourself and your home by using an effective <u>insect repellent</u> and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- Dusk or Dawn, avoid outside activities during peak mosquito feeding times.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

2025 <u>Shasta County West Nile virus activity</u>: 0 dead birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 1 mosquito samples, and 0 humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

2025 California West Nile virus activity: 26 dead birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 397 mosquito sample, and 2 humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

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