



Merced County Mosquito Abatement District
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FIRST 2020 DETECTION OF WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY IN MERCED COUNTY

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District received confirmation from the Center of Vector-borne Diseases of UC Davis, that a mosquito sample as well as a dead bird located in Merced, have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). These are the first detections of WNV in Merced County this year. No confirmed human cases in Merced County have been reported to date. As of June 26th, WNV has been detected in 11 California counties with activity confirmed in one human (Stanislaus County), 19 dead birds, and 92 mosquito samples.

“As people stay closer to home as Independence Day approaches this week, the citizens of Merced County need to continue their efforts in reducing WNV activity by protecting themselves from mosquitoes,” says Rhiannon Jones General Manager of Merced County Mosquito Abatement District. “It is important to reduce mosquito breeding on their properties to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed. It will help dramatically reduce mosquitoes in our community.”

The District has resumed all duties in the midst of COVID. Mosquito Control Technicians are performing service requests, inspections and treatments with social distancing in mind. “We can’t trade one illness for another. It is our responsibility to protect human health against mosquito-borne diseases. West Nile Virus is still present in our community and it’s important that people don’t get bit by mosquitoes,” says Rhiannon Jones General Manager.

The District will continue with their treatment and surveillance programs by identifying mosquito breeding sources and mosquito borne disease activity. They will perform treatments according to their surveillance results. The District anticipates more WNV detections in the coming months and would like to remind residents that they can help by taking the following precautions:

- **Dump** or **drain** standing water. Mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in stagnant water.
- **Defend** yourself against mosquitoes by using repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present, typically during **Dawn** and **Dusk**.
- **Report neglected swimming pools** by calling your local mosquito abatement district.

Anonymous calls accepted.

To report mosquito-breeding problem areas, Merced County residents should contact Merced County Mosquito Abatement District at (209) 722-1527 [main], (800) 622-3242 [toll], or www.mcmosquito.org.

For more information on statewide WNV information, visit the California Department of Public Health website (<http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>).

For inquiries regarding WNV and human infections, residents should contact Merced County Department of Public Health at (209) 381-1200.

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