



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOUR MORE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

*-District also reports more birds, a squirrel, horses and chickens-*

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation of four more human West Nile virus cases in the county this year. The four new human cases include three men aged 66, 69, and 72 years-old, and a woman aged 68 years-old. All are from east Contra Costa County.

The District is also reporting an additional 15 birds, four squirrels, two horses, and three chickens that have tested positive for West Nile virus.

“Our data illustrates we have surpassed our peak in virus activity,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager for the District. “Although we are reporting additional human and horse cases, these infections occurred 3-5 weeks ago. Mosquito production is still in full swing and so we all need to remain diligent in our mosquito control efforts”.

To date in Contra Costa County there have been a total of seven human cases, 53 birds, 9 chickens, three mosquito samples, seven horses, and 5 squirrels that have tested positive for West Nile virus. In California, there have been nine West Nile virus-related fatalities and 593 people diagnosed with the disease this year.

Most people who are bitten by a mosquito with WNV will not get sick; however, up to 20 percent of the population infected with WNV will get West Nile fever. West Nile fever causes people to experience mild to severe flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body ache and possible paralysis. Less than one percent of infected individuals will require hospitalization. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most susceptible to illness and death caused by WNV.

Residents are urged to take the following precautions:

**DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using a repellent with an effective active ingredient such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure to follow label directions.  
**DRAIN** all sources of standing water that may support mosquito-breeding habitats. Residential sources are the biggest producer of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County.  
**DOOR** and window screens should fit tight and be in good repair. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

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IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

DO vaccinate your horses. Horses are highly susceptible to West Nile virus – approximately half of the horses that get WNV die or are euthanized.

DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoor since this is when mosquitoes are most active.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors and mosquitoes are present.

DEAD birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473). Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

To learn about possible mosquito spraying in Contra Costa County, visit the district's website at [www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us](http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us) or call (925) 685-9301 for a recorded message.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 685-9301, or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs.

For information concerning West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at [www.ccpublichealth.org](http://www.ccpublichealth.org)

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at [www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\\_info.htm](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm) or call them at (916) 654-1447.

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