



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31st, 2022

AS SHASTA COUNTY STAYS HOT, WEST NILE VIRUS TRANSMISSION CONTINUES

We continue to see West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples at levels above the previous six years. Despite record drought, the sustained warm temperatures in Shasta County will encourage a longer season for mosquitoes and the diseases they carry, like West Nile virus. The District has tested hundreds of samples of adult mosquitoes for diseases that could be transmitted to District residents and found thirty positive samples as of August 26th, 2022. We continue to submit additional mosquitoes and anticipate more positive test results. “As we head into Labor Day weekend, people are going to be taking advantage of cooler periods of the day, and mosquitoes are no different. Wearing insect repellent when enjoying the outdoors will significantly reduce mosquito bites and disease,” stated Peter Bonkrude, District Manager.

In response to these high levels of WNV incidence in the area, the District has increased surveillance for both immature and adult mosquitoes. In response to that surveillance, the District applies an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) control strategy to reduce the risk to residents. This IPM methodology includes prescriptive control options based on the surveillance generated in the field. By utilizing the best tool or tools in our toolbox for every control decision, we can better reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases to the public.

As WNV will continue to be the focus for our staff, we would like to remind residents how they can become active participants in reducing mosquito risk in and around their property. By following the 4 D's of protection:

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes; this includes flowerpots, old tires, and buckets. Some species like our new Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.

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Our Mission: “To protect the public’s health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency”.

- **Defend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.**
- **Dusk or Dawn, avoid outside activities as mosquitoes will be the most active.**
- **Dress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.**

Residents may receive email or text notification for upcoming adult mosquito treatments. To sign up, go to Adult Mosquito Control Notifications on the District website.

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.

2022 Shasta County West Nile virus activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **30** mosquito samples, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus. California West Nile virus activity: **92** dead birds, **52** sentinel chickens, **1,834** mosquito samples, and **26** humans tested positive for West Nile virus.

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