



Merced County Mosquito Abatement District
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NUMBER: 24-01
FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Date: June 17, 2024

FIRST 2024 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 in Merced County, has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first detection of WNV in Merced County this year. No confirmed human cases in Merced County have been reported. As of June 14th, WNV activity has been detected in 14 California counties (31 dead birds, and 111 mosquito samples). No human cases of WNV have been reported in the State of California to date.

“The citizens of Merced County need to protect themselves from mosquito bites,” says Rhiannon Jones General Manager of Merced County Mosquito Abatement District. “It is important to reduce mosquito populations on their properties by eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed. It will help dramatically reduce mosquitoes in our community. As the summer continues, it is important that citizens wear repellent while outdoors to reduce the chances of getting bitten by a mosquito.”

Mosquito Control Technicians perform inspections and treatments throughout Merced County. Services are covered by taxes. There are no additional fees. Visit www.mcmosquito.org to submit a FREE service request.

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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