

MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. 94931 (707) 285-2200 FAX: 285-2210 www.msosquito.com

~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2007

West Nile Virus Incidents in California

-Local District advises residents to protect themselves

(Cotati), California August 6, 2007- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last week declared a state of emergency in Kern, Colusa and San Joaquin counties to prevent the spread of this mosquito-borne disease. This year there have been 4 deaths in California due to West Nile Virus (2 in Kern County, 1 in San Joaquin County and 1 in Colusa County).

"This year in Sonoma County we have had two horse cases, 1 human case and 1 bird test positive for West Nile Virus. Our District is taking proactive measures to protect our residents from further spread of this deadly virus." District Manager, Jim Wanderscheid said.

It is also of vital importance that Marin and Sonoma county residents do their part and forge a critical partnership in protecting the public against this epidemic.

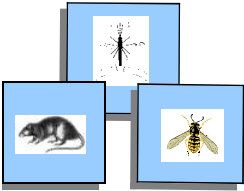
Here is what residents should do to protect themselves:

1. **Defend yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent**, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow all label directions.
2. **Make sure that you are not breeding mosquitoes in your back yard.** Ornamental ponds, swimming pools, plastic wading pools, boats, animal watering troughs and other containers can all contain standing water which is an essential ingredient in raising mosquitoes. Please:
 - **EMPTY OR COVER CONTAINERS THAT CAN HOLD WATER**
 - **PUT MOSQUITOFISH IN PERMANENT PONDS**
 - **STORE OLD TIRES INSIDE OR COVER**
 - **REPORT ALL DEAD BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS****Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov>. The toll-free line to report a dead bird is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473)**

For information on mosquitoes, please call the Marin / Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District at (707) 285-2200; or toll-free (800) 231-3236, or visit our website at www.msosquito.com.

Symptoms

The virus can be transmitted through an infected mosquito. Symptoms of the disease include fever, body aches and rashes. Some people who are infected with the virus show no symptoms.



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About Marin / Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District

The District maintains a small but highly trained unit responsible for the prevention, elimination or control of mosquitoes and other arthropods known to be potential carriers of infectious diseases, or presenting a public nuisance.

In 2004, residents voted to expand service to the entire population of both counties. The area covered grew from 960 to 2,300 square miles, with a human population of 715,000. Before the expansion, district employees responded to approximately 3000 service requests from the public each year For more information about MSMVCD, visit www.msosquito.com.

Since taking office, Governor Schwarzenegger has invested more than \$15 million to fight West Nile Virus. California has one of the most comprehensive West Nile Virus surveillance and control systems in the U.S. The state deploys surveillance and detection technology to track specific areas of West Nile Virus activity and alert local agencies like us, so we can focus our mosquito control activities.

For more information about the state of emergency and the West Nile Virus, visit <http://westnile.ca.gov>.

2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 1 birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 humans, 0 mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: No detection of WNV

2006 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 21 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 2 mosquito pools, 0 humans, 1 sentinel chicken tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 8 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 3 mosquito pools, 1 human, 1 Western Gray squirrel, 2 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus.

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