

First West Nile virus infection in Butte County



Mosquitoes usually feed at dusk and dawn and people are encouraged to wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and spray with repellent to help avoid West Nile virus. – Bill Husa —Enterprise-Record file photo

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OROVILLE — The Butte County Public Health Department announced Thursday the first confirmed human West Nile Virus infection in Butte County.

The press release did not indicate if the patient was male or female, or city of residence, which is the Health Department's common practice.

As of July 20, 2018, 10 human cases had been reported in California, according to the department. The virus is active July through October, with August typically being the peak month in Butte County.

Residents should protect themselves and their families by wearing appropriate clothing, using effective repellents and avoiding exposure at dusk and dawn.

West Nile is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito, which becomes infected by feeding on infected birds. Residents can reduce the risk of infection by the "Three Ds."

DEET — Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include, picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Used according to instructions, DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months

of age and older.

DAWN AND DUSK — Mosquitoes that transmit WNV bite in the early morning and evening. Wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

DRAIN – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate or drain all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. For standing water that cannot be drained such as fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding “mosquito dunks” or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae. Report unmaintained swimming pools to the local Mosquito and Vector Control District at 342-7350 or 533-6038.