

This is a joint release issued by Butte County Public Health and Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Nile Virus Activity Widespread, Public Urged to Prevent Mosquito Bites

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – West Nile Virus (WNV) activity is now widespread throughout Butte County. The Butte County Public Health Department (BCPHD) and Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (BCMVCDD) urge residents to protect themselves from WNV by reducing mosquitoes on their property and preventing mosquito bites.

BCPHD has confirmed the second human West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in Butte County. The infected person is an adult who suffered a fever-like illness. As of August 23, 2019, 45 human WNV infections have been reported in 11 California counties.

BCMVCDD has confirmed that 31 mosquito pools (groups of mosquitoes) and 12 sentinel chickens have tested positive with WNV. The District urges residents to drain all un-needed standing water and to report any suspected mosquito-breeding sites. Reports can be made by phone at 530-533-6038 or 530-342-7350 or website: www.ButteMosquito.com.

WNV has been identified in Butte County every year since 2004 and is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Residents can reduce the risk of infection by practicing the “Three Ds”:

1. **DEET** – Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include: picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
2. **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.
3. **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 (530) 342-7350 or (530) 533-6038.

People infected with WNV generally fall into three categories: no symptoms (8 out of 10 people) a fever illness with fatigue and body aches (1 in 5 people), or severe illness with nerve related

symptoms such as encephalitis or meningitis (less than 1 in 150 people). For those who develop a severe WNV illness, symptoms may last several weeks and some symptoms may be permanent. People 50 years of age and older, and individuals with diabetes or hypertension, have a higher chance of getting sick and are more likely to develop complications

For more information about WNV, visit Butte County's [West Nile Virus website](#).

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*Please note new phone number