



Merced County Mosquito Abatement District
3478 Beachwood Drive, P.O. Box 909, Merced CA 95341
Phone: (209) 722-1527
Toll: (800) 622-3242
Fax: (209) 722-3051
www.mcmosquito.org

NUMBER: 21-01
FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Date: July 20, 2021

FIRST 2021 DETECTION OF WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY IN MERCED COUNTY

MERCED, CA– The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District received confirmation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), that a dead bird located in Turlock, 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 to date. As of July 16th, WNV has been detected in 20 California counties with activity confirmed in two human cases (San Luis Obispo and Fresno Counties), 68 dead birds, 283 mosquito pooled samples and one horse.

“Although the dead bird was located near the border of our county, the citizens of Merced County should still be concerned as more detections will likely ensue in the following weeks,” says Rhiannon Jones General Manager of Merced County Mosquito Abatement District. “It is important to reduce mosquito breeding on their properties to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed. It will help dramatically reduce mosquitoes in our community.”

"Mosquito Control Technicians are performing service requests, inspections and treatments to be proactive within the community. It is our responsibility to protect human health against mosquito-borne diseases. If anyone is experiencing mosquito related problems they are more than welcome to contact us," says Rhiannon Jones General Manager.

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 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 contacting 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.

###END###