

NEWS RELEASE



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THREE PEOPLE, TWO BIRDS INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - Three people and two more birds are counted amongst the latest West Nile virus activity in Contra Costa County. The Contra Costa Health Services department reported that three adults, one man and one woman from East county and one man from West county, are recovering from the disease. Two birds from Antioch and Brentwood also tested positive for the virus according to the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District.

"It only takes one mosquito bite to get infected," said Dr. Steve Schutz, scientific program manager for the District. "So, it pays great dividends to wear mosquito repellent and ensure there is no mosquito production around our yards or neighborhoods."

Last year there were five [people in Contra Costa County](#) who contracted West Nile virus. There were five people in 2008, four in 2007, and five in 2006 - two of whom died from the disease.

For all West Nile virus activity in Contra Costa County excluding people, visit the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District's [website](#). For information concerning human West Nile virus cases, symptoms, prevention, or testing, please visit the Contra Costa Health Services [website](#) or call their health emergency information line at (888) 959-9911.

Please report DEAD birds to the state hotline at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but **reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.**

Important West Nile virus precautions include:

- DEFENDING yourself against mosquitoes by using a repellent with an effective active ingredient such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure to follow label directions.
- DRAINING all sources of standing water that may support mosquito-breeding

habitats. Residential sources, such as neglected swimming pools, can be a big producer of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County.

- Making sure DOOR and window screens fit tight and are in good repair. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Vaccinating your horses. Horses are highly susceptible to West Nile virus - approximately half of the horses that get West Nile virus die or have to be euthanized.
- Avoiding DAWN and DUSK times when outdoors since this is when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESSING appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors and mosquitoes are present.

People wishing to be notified about adult mosquito fogging or spraying in residential areas have several options. They may visit the [District's website](#) and opt to receive the notifications automatically by e-mail; they can view information directly on the [District's website](#); or they may phone the District for a recorded message at (925) 771-6195.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District, a public health agency, is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 771-6195 or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs. Fish are also available at the Antioch Corporation Yard located at 1201 W. 4th Street in Antioch.

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please call the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at (916) 654-1447.

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