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CDPH Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Deaths of 2018

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced today two confirmed deaths in California due to West Nile virus (WNV). The deceased persons were residents of Glenn county and Yuba county.

As of September 7, CDPH has reported 56 human cases of WNV from 21 California counties this year. Additionally, 422 dead birds from 18 counties have tested positive for WNV in 2018, and 1,606 mosquito samples from 28 counties have also tested positive for WNV this year.

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. The risk of serious illness to most people is low. However, some individuals – less than one percent – can develop serious neurologic illnesses such as encephalitis or meningitis.

It is very important to take simple precautions that reduce the risk of mosquito bites and becoming infected with West Nile virus. The 4 “D”s is an easy way to remember how to prevent mosquito bites:

- D – DEET** – use DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. These are the EPA approved mosquito repellents to prevent bites; be sure to follow package instructions for age of person and how to apply
- D – Dawn and Dusk** – avoid going outdoors at dawn and dusk when the mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active
- D – Doors and windows** – ensure screens on doors and windows are not broken or torn
- D – Drain** all standing water around the outside of your house – gutters, jar lids, tires, and flower pot trays are common places where water collects

Glenn County Mosquito and Vector Control District fogging schedule can be found at: <http://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/health-human-services/public-health/services/mosquito-and-vector-control>. Additional information on West Nile virus can be found on the State of California West Nile virus webpage: www.westnile.ca.gov.

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