



MARIN/SONOMA
MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
595 Helman Lane, Cotati Ca 94931 ~1.800.231.3236~www.ms mosquito.com

~ News Release ~

Contact: Nizza Sequeira, Public Relations Director

Office: (707)285-2093 Cell: 707-974-7073

E-mail: nizzas@msmosquito.com

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WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

~Two more dead birds test positive for West Nile virus in Sonoma County for 2008

COTATI, CALIFORNIA- The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation that two more birds have tested positive for West Nile virus in Sonoma County. The following birds tested positive for West Nile virus: *One (1) Virginia Rail collected on 9/25/08 from Glen Ellen in the area of Warm Springs Road; One (1) domestic duck collected on 09/18/08 from Santa Rosa in the area of Hall Road.*

Residents can protect themselves by following these simple tips:

- Be aware that mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn.
- When engaging in outdoor activities, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Repellents containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus are most effective.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Cover septic tanks and screen roof vent pipes.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property.

For more information or to report mosquito problems visit the District's website at www.ms mosquito.com

2008 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 mosquito pools and 8 dead birds have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 1 dead bird has tested positive for West Nile virus.

2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 19 dead birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens and 1 mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 4 dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus.

West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on an infected bird. Symptoms of WNV include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

Report all dead birds and squirrels.

Online reporting is preferred at westnile.ca.gov or Call toll free at 1-877-WNV-BIRD

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District is a public health agency funded by property taxes and committed to protecting the public from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease.

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