



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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Mosquito Sample Collected From Windsor Tests Positive For West Nile Virus

~Residents urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes

COTATI, CALIFORNIA- The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that a mosquito sample from the Town of Windsor has tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquito sample was collected near the 8000 block of Windsor Road. District officials will begin scouring the area checking all known sources as well as searching for new mosquito breeding sites. The District traps and tests adult mosquitoes regularly as a part of their disease surveillance program but will add additional traps in the area where the positive mosquito sample was identified.

“Even though the temperatures have slightly decreased the virus can still be active in infected mosquitoes, just at a lower level” said Nizza Sequeira, public relations director for the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District. “It is extremely important for residents to continue to protect themselves from mosquitoes and mosquito bites. One bite from a West Nile virus positive mosquito and your infected.” stated Sequeira.

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 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 pool and 6 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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