

West Nile Virus impact Birds in Eastern Alameda County

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District has received confirmation from the state of a West Nile virus positive mosquito pool.

The group of mosquitoes was collected from the southeastern part of Livermore on the night of July 3, 2014. Ongoing mosquito surveillance and larviciding program has been intensified in the area. Alameda County last detected West Nile virus positive mosquitoes in 2009.

Alameda County, along with the rest of California, has seen an increase in West Nile virus activity this year compared to last. To date, eight American Crows and one group of mosquitoes have tested positive for the virus in Alameda County. Last year at this time, the District had three West Nile virus positive birds.

District Manager Chindi Peavey said, "Since the virus activity is increasing in our county, residents should take all the precautions available against West Nile virus. Use repellent and wear long sleeves and long pants when going outside; put screens on your windows and doors; get rid of any standing water in your backyard."

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for West Nile virus. Approximately one in five people who are infected with West Nile virus will develop symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, or rash. Less than one percent will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis. Adults over 50 years old and people with compromised immune systems are at increased risk of serious complications. Anyone who develops symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

Since horses are very susceptible to West Nile virus and vaccines are available, horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians immediately about timely vaccinations.

For information about mosquitoes and West Nile virus visit www.mosquitoes.org. Residents can request mosquitofish for their fish ponds, horse troughs, etc. by contacting our District office. at Hayward at 23187 Connecticut St.; phone number (510)783-7744. For information concerning West Nile virus symptoms, prevention or testing, contact the Alameda County Public Health Department at (510)267-8001.