



Rose Mary Rahn, BSN, PHN  
Director

Milton Teske, MD  
Health Officer

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: KCDPH.PIO@co.kings.ca.us

Phone: (559) 584-1401

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### FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN KINGS COUNTY

**HANFORD, CA** – On August 25, 2023, the Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) received confirmation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) that the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) of the season has been detected in Kings County. The Kings County case brings the total of human cases throughout the State to fifty-five (55).

*“This is a reminder that we all need to protect ourselves against mosquito bites”* said Michael Cavanagh, District Manager of Kings Mosquito Abatement District. *“It is important that anyone that is experiencing related symptoms seek medical attention and that residents take all precautions including wearing insect repellent and eliminating sources of standing water.”*

There are no vaccines for West Nile Virus (WNV), and most individuals who are infected will have no symptoms, or only mild non-specific flu-like illnesses. WNV can have severe consequences for the elderly or others, including those with pre-existing health conditions. Examples of symptoms of the severe disease include fever, headache, stiff neck, rash, joint pain, and disorientation.

Kings County Department of Public Health and the Kings Mosquito Abatement District (KMAD) recommend that the public protect themselves against mosquito bites by practicing the “Three D’s”:

1. **DEET** – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon, eucalyptus, or Insect Repellent 3535 (IR3535) according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitos from biting you. Insect repellents should be used according to the label instructions for children.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK** – Mosquitos are most active during dawn and dusk; therefore, individuals should wear protective clothing when they are out during these hours. In addition, residents should strongly consider replacing door and window screens that have holes or that do not close properly.
3. **DRAIN** – Mosquitos lay their eggs on standing water. Removing all sources of standing water near your home, by emptying flowerpots, old car tires, buckets, and other containers.

The community is encouraged to report any swimming pool that is not being properly maintained. Please contact the KMAD as they provide mosquito fish for swimming pools, back yard ponds, and horse troughs free of charge. To contact the district please call (559) 584-3326 or via their website at: [www.kingsmosquito.net](http://www.kingsmosquito.net). Additional information regarding West Nile Virus may be found at: <https://westnile.ca.gov/>.