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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date of Release: July 5, 2022



WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN KINGS COUNTY

HANFORD – The Kings Mosquito Abatement District (KMAD) has determined that 9 out of 46 mosquito samples recently collected tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) with one of the samples being St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV). The samples were collected from the areas of Hanford, Armona, and Corcoran. There have been no confirmed human cases so far this year. Since the County’s first human case in 2005, there have been a total of 77 cases, including five deaths. No human cases have been reported in California this year.

“This is the time of year when we typically detect WNV in the County and we anticipate that we will continue to detect the virus through September,” said Michael Cavanagh, District Manager for KMAD. “Unfortunately, Covid-19 has caused staffing shortages at the same time we’re detecting a significant population increase in the species of mosquitoes that transmit WNV. This will be a major concern over the next several weeks.”

Most people who are infected with WNV have no symptoms or only mild non-specific flu-like illness. However, in some individuals, especially the elderly, the disease can cause severe neurologic illness. Symptoms of severe disease include fever, headache, stiff neck, rash, joint pain, disorientation, and altered level of consciousness. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should see a doctor immediately.

Residents can contact the KMAD if they have a mosquito problem, report a neglected swimming pool (green pool), or if they need assistance in eliminating mosquito breeding sources. The District will also provide mosquito fish for swimming pools, back yard ponds, and horse troughs free of charge. Residents may request services by calling (559) 584-3326, or through the District’s website at www.kingsmosquito.net.

It is especially important to eliminate any standing water – no matter how small of an amount – where mosquitos can breed. Kings County Department of Public Health



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(KCDPH) recommends that individuals protect against mosquito bites by practicing the “Three Ds”:

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 not be used on children under two months of age.
2. DAWN AND DUSK – Mosquitos usually bite in the early morning and evening, so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitos. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
3. DRAIN – Mosquitos lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, by emptying flowerpots, old car tires, buckets, and other containers. If you know of a swimming pool that is not being properly maintained, please contact your local mosquito and vector control agency.

Additional information regarding West Nile Virus may be found at:
<http://www.westnile.ca.gov>