



Public Health Division
Arnold Leff, MD, REHS
County Health Officer

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

Press Release

For Release: Immediately
Date: June 22, 2018

Contact: Corinne Hyland, PIO
Phone: (831) 566-4370

West Nile Virus Found in Santa Cruz County

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA. - The California Department of Public Health / West Nile virus program notified the County of Santa Cruz Thursday, June 21 of this summer's first find of a West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird in Santa Cruz County. The bird, an American Crow with an acute infection, was submitted by Mosquito and Vector Control (MVC) on June 13 and obtained from a resident in Live Oak near 30th Ave between Moran Lake and Pleasure Point. WNV is primarily a bird virus that can affect humans and other animals and can be spread by the bite of summer mosquitoes. In humans, symptoms of infection range from no symptoms to fever and flu-like illness to serious illness affecting the central nervous system in less than 1% of cases.

The find was expected, as there has been WNV activity in nearby counties. The timing has been a bit earlier for finds within the County compared with previous years (our total for 2017 – 1 bird and 0 mosquitoes tested positive, 2016 – 2 birds and 3 mosquitoes tested positive, 2015 – 1 horse positive, 2014 – 1 bird positive, 2013 – 3 birds and 1 mosquito tested positive, 2012 – 17 birds, 2011 – 1 bird, 2010 – 6 birds, 2009 – 1 bird, 2008 – 3 birds, 2007 - 6 birds, 2006 - 7 birds, 2005 – 2 birds, 2004 - 36 birds).

As in previous years, MVC response will be measured and coordinated with the County Health Services Agency and the State Department of Public Health. MVC will conduct surveillance for mosquito breeding sources in the areas surrounding the find, and the resident who reported the dead bird has been notified.

Last year California had 536 reported human cases and 41 deaths attributed to West Nile virus. This year as compared to 2017 California WNV activity looks to be less in most areas of the state in birds and mosquitoes, but with four human cases so far. No locally acquired human cases have been found in the County this season or in years past. MVC will continue to submit dead bird finds and trapped mosquitoes for WNV testing and has two sentinel chicken flocks from blood samples. MVC will increase vigilance in controlling the larval stages of vector species of mosquitoes. The public is asked to protect themselves from mosquito bites and to drain any standing water around their homes and report mosquito biting and standing water or green swimming pools in their neighborhood. We also encourage the public to report dead birds to the State hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD or online <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>. Mosquito and Vector Control can also provide free mosquito-eating fish for yard water features and un-maintained pools and can be reached at 831-454-2590 or www.agdept.com. Horses are particularly susceptible to WNV and should be vaccinated.

For more information on West Nile virus please see. <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Santa Cruz County