



County of Fresno
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Dr. Rais Vohra, Interim Health Officer

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NEWS RELEASE
Public Health Communication
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Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District
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Increased West Nile Virus Activity in Fresno County

The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) has confirmed two positive human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) for 2023 in Fresno County and numbers are expected to increase. Hot temperatures throughout the summer months and excessive moisture in the region contribute to increased numbers of mosquitoes and also increases the risk of virus transmission to humans. “Let’s continue to work together to prevent additional human cases and even deaths caused by mosquito borne illnesses this year,” says Dr. Rais Vohra, Interim Health Officer.

“As West Nile virus activity in the Central Valley continues to increase, I urge Fresno County residents to continue taking every precaution possible to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites this summer,” says Dr. Rais Vohra. “The risk of disease due to WNV usually increases at this time of year and is highest throughout the summer and early fall. The risk of serious illness to most people is low. However, some individuals – less than one percent – can develop serious neurologic illnesses such as encephalitis or meningitis. Everyone should take this disease and mosquito borne illnesses seriously. Please protect yourself and your families from mosquito bites.”

The FCDPH recommends that individuals contact their local mosquito abatement district regarding standing water or mosquito problems, as well as to report any neglected swimming pools. Neglected pools are a major source of mosquito production in urban and suburban areas. Residents can protect themselves against mosquito bites and WNV by practicing the “**Three Ds**”:

1. **DETER** – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. Insect repellents should not be used on children under two months of age.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK** – Mosquitoes 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 mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
3. **DRAIN** – Mosquitoes 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. California’s West Nile virus website includes the latest information on WNV activity in the state: <https://westnile.ca.gov/>

For more information and to contact your local mosquito abatement district, please visit www.fresnocountymosquito.org.

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Promotion, preservation and protection of the community’s health

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