



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14th, 2023

Mosquitoes in Shasta County Test Positive for St. Louis Encephalitis for the First Time since 1972

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD) has confirmed that a mosquito sample containing 38 mosquitoes has tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) in Anderson, CA. This is the first time SLEV has been detected in Shasta County since 1972. This sample was detected as part of the District's regular mosquito-borne disease surveillance. Similar to West Nile virus (WNV), SLEV is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Additionally, SLEV shares the same symptoms as WNV, which include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Severe neuroinvasive disease often involves encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain that can occur in some cases. This development underscores the importance of continued vigilance in mosquito prevention efforts and the need for public cooperation in minimizing the risk of disease transmission.

"While this is the first positive test result in five decades, it serves as a crucial reminder that mosquitoes remain a significant public health concern in our region. This record year has brought historic mosquito numbers, record high WNV positives in mosquitoes, and now re-emerging diseases. We are committed to protecting the community from vector-borne diseases and will be taking immediate action to address this finding," said Peter Bonkrude, District Manager.

In response, Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District will be increasing both immature and adult mosquito surveillance in the area and increasing control efforts where needed.

Residents may receive email or text notifications for upcoming adult mosquito treatments. To sign up, go to [Mosquito Control Notifications](#) on the website.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by implementing the **4 Ds** of protection:

-MORE-

Our Mission: "To protect the public's health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency".

- **Drain** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, including flowerpots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **Defend** yourself and your home by using an [effective insect repellent](#) and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **Dusk or Dawn**, avoid outside activities.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus, or new emerging mosquito-borne diseases, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit www.ShastaMosquito.org.

2023 Shasta County St. Louis Encephalitis (SLEV) activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **1** mosquito sample, and **0** humans tested positive for SLEV. California SLEV activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **370** mosquito samples, and **1** human tested positive for SLEV (9/8/2023).

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