



# SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

19200 Latona Road, Anderson, CA 96007  
Telephone: (530) 365-3768 Fax: (530) 365-0305  
Web: [shastamosquito.org](http://shastamosquito.org)

Contact: Peter Bonkrude, District Manager

Ph# 530-365-3768

E-mail: [contact@shastamosquito.org](mailto:contact@shastamosquito.org)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July 19th, 2023**

### **First Sign of West Nile Virus in Shasta County for 2023**

Unprecedented winter and spring storms have created numerous new and increased existing standing water sources, and with the increased summer temperatures, West Nile virus (WNV) transmission continues to be found in the Shasta County area. The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District have confirmed the first sign of West Nile virus activity in Shasta County in the South Redding Area. The positive test came from adult mosquito samples that the district routinely collects and submits for testing as part of their regular disease surveillance program.

“This almost [record rain](#) and standing water have increased our mosquito numbers across all trapped species. We are experiencing over five times the numbers of mosquitoes responsible for West Nile virus transmission,” stated Peter Bonkrude, District Manager. “As we see the temperatures increase, we will continue to see more WNV transmission, so it’s important people take steps to reduce their bite exposure.”

In response to the WNV positive surveillance information, District staff will be increasing adult and immature mosquito surveillance in the area. Additionally, the District will be conducting [ultra-low volume adult mosquito control](#) in the areas where mosquito activity and potential disease transmission risk continues.

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:

- **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.

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*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”.*

- **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](http://www.ShastaMosquito.org).

**2023** Shasta County West Nile virus activity: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **1** mosquito sample, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus. California West Nile virus activity: **90** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **533** mosquito samples, and **0** humans tested positive for West Nile virus (7/14/2023).

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