



# SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RECORD WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD) advises Shasta County residents that West Nile virus (WNV) is now widespread throughout the District. Since our first reported WNV positive, the virus has now been detected in [sixty-seven \(67\)](#) mosquito samples. This number exceeded our previous record in 2015 of forty-eight (48). This forty percent increase makes 2023 the highest year for WNV positive samples in over a decade. These numbers suggest that the disease is not just prevalent within mosquito populations, but also geographically widespread. “Peak West Nile virus activity will likely persist until fall weather decreases mosquito breeding and disease transmission. In the meantime, everyone needs to be vigilant about avoiding mosquito bites,” says District Manager Peter Bonkrude. People can become infected with WNV if they are bitten by an infected mosquito.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District continues to perform enhanced mosquito control in areas where samples indicate ongoing WNV activity. Additionally, the District will be conducting [ultra-low volume adult mosquito control](#) in the areas where mosquito activity and potential disease transmission risk continues. This year in California, fourteen (14) people have contracted West Nile virus. There are no confirmed human cases in Shasta County at the time of this release (8/11/2023).

Residents may receive email or text notifications for upcoming adult mosquito treatments. To sign up, go to [Mosquito Control Notifications](#) on the District’s 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.
- **Dusk or Dawn**, avoid outside activities.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

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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”.*

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 update: **0** dead birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **67** mosquito samples, **0** horse and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date (8/11/2023). Statewide virus activity update: **181** dead birds, **27** sentinel chickens, **1582** mosquito samples, and **14** humans have tested positive for WNV.