

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IN 2023

Reminder: Practice Precautions Year-Round Against West Nile Virus

Stockton, CA (July 27, 2023) – San Joaquin County Public Health Services has confirmed a West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in San Joaquin County. This is the first confirmed human case in the county for 2023, and besides Tulare County, the second reported human case in California for this year. The 49-year-old male patient is currently receiving medical services in a local healthcare facility.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. According to Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, “Most people who become infected do not get sick, and the risk of serious illness to most people is low. However, about one percent of individuals can develop a serious neurologic illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis.”

Be aware of symptoms of serious infection such as severe headaches, stiff neck, disorientation, or confusion. Seek medical attention if you believe you have been bitten and these symptoms are present. A serious infection generally requires hospitalization to provide intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections. Currently, there is no cure or vaccine for WNV.

The most effective method for preventing WNV infection is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Take these three precautionary measures:

- 1) **DRAIN...** and dump out any standing water where mosquitos lay eggs. Tip and toss unnecessary containers. This includes flowerpots, old car tires, rain gutters, and pet bowls. Ensure swimming pools and spas are properly maintained. Consider including mosquitofish in ornamental ponds and fountains.
- 2) **AVOID...** outdoor activity at peak times when mosquitos are most active: early morning and evening.
- 3) **PROTECT...** yourself by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants during peak biting times. Also, when outdoors apply EPA-registered insect repellent that contains one of these active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), or Para-menthane-diol (PMD). Follow all label instructions.

Additionally, if you find a dead bird, (especially a crow, jay, magpie, raven, sparrow, finch, or hawk) please file a report online at westnile.ca.gov or call toll-free 1-877-968-2473 (1-877-WNV-BIRD) to report it. Contact San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District at sjmosquito.org or (209) 982-4675 or (800) 300-4675 to report significant mosquito infestations, daytime biting, or neglected (green) swimming pools.

For current information on California WNV resources and statistics, visit westnile.ca.gov. Visit the California Department of Public Health’s Mosquito Bite Toolkit [here](#).