



"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Mental Health ♦ Public Health ♦ Social Services

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer Time is Mosquito Season

We are once again heading into mosquito season and with that the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV). WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. The Mendocino County Community Health Branch recommends that County citizens help reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid spending times outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- When outdoors wear long pants and long sleeved shirts and use insect repellent.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding.
- Repair or replace torn screens on the windows and doors of your home to help keep mosquitoes outside.
- Add mosquito fish or a larvicide to small ponds that do not have fish. For use of larvicide follow directions on the package.

Most individuals who are infected with WNV do not experience any illness. Mild symptoms, such as fever, rash, headache and body aches, occur in up to 20% of persons infected. Less than one percent of WNV infections prove severe, although seniors and individuals with impaired immune systems have a greater chance of developing severe symptoms that include high fever, disorientation, and neurological effects. The public is advised to see their medical provider if they develop symptoms that could be from WNV.

Since horses are susceptible to WNV and a vaccine is available for horses, horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about timely vaccinations.

For more information about WNV visit www.westnile.ca.gov/