

WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION & CONTROL

To decrease exposure to mosquitoes and the infections that they may carry:

 Avoid outside activity when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.

 When outdoors, wear protective clothing (long pants and long sleeves) and apply insect repellent containing DEET according to label instructions.

 Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes in them.

 Eliminate all sources of standing water on private property. Stock ornamental ponds and animal watering troughs with fish that eat mosquito larvae.

 Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

This brochure has been modified from material provided by the California Department of Public Health, Vector-Borne Disease Section, Sacramento, CA.

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For more information call:

MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of Santa Barbara County

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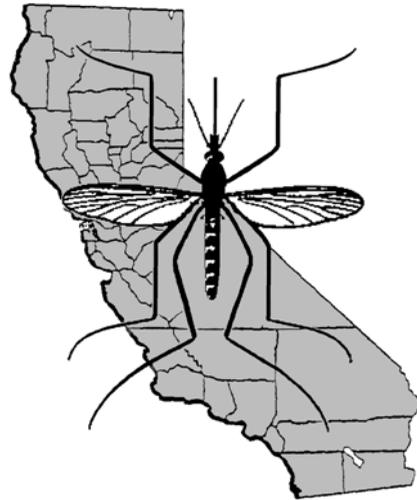
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CALIFORNIA SURVEILLANCE AND FACTS ABOUT

West Nile Virus



**MOSQUITO and VECTOR
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
of Santa Barbara County

WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS?



West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that has been found in Asia, eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The virus was first detected in the United States in New York City during 1999.

The majority of people and animals that are infected with the virus have a mild illness or no symptoms. In rare cases, the virus can cause a more serious condition called encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. The elderly are at highest risk for disease caused by WNV. Nationwide, over 9100 human cases (more than 200 fatal) occurred during 2003. In 2004, WNV occurred in all 58 California counties with more than 800 human cases (27 fatal) and 536 horse cases (228 fatal).

HOW DO PEOPLE AND ANIMALS GET WEST NILE VIRUS?

WNV is transmitted to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. Most mosquito species are capable of carrying the virus, however very few individual mosquitoes are actually infected. A mosquito first acquires the infection by feeding on a bird with virus in its blood. The virus lives in the mosquito and is transmitted to a new host in the mosquito's saliva when the insect bites a person, animal, or another bird.

Humans, horses, and other animals are accidental hosts for WNV. Human-to-human, animal-to-animal, and animal-to-human transmission does not occur. The virus is most prevalent from May to October when mosquitoes are most abundant.

TRANSMISSION CYCLE OF WEST NILE VIRUS

