



## LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 22, 2011

### THIRD MOSQUITO SAMPLE POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN LAKE COUNTY IN 2011

LAKEPORT, Calif. - A third sample of mosquitoes collected in Lake County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The positive sample consisted of 10 *Culex tarsalis* (the Western encephalitis mosquito) collected east of Middletown on Thursday, September 15. The previous two WNV-positive mosquito samples were collected earlier in September near Kelseyville. No other WNV activity has been reported in Lake County this year.

“The mosquitoes that are testing positive for West Nile virus in Lake County develop in still water,” explains Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D., the District Manager and Research Director of the Lake County Vector Control District. “They will develop in wading pools, neglected swimming pools and spas, ponds, fountains, and other water sources. You can protect your family—and your neighbors—by dumping out small water sources like wading pools, or calling the District for help with larger sources like pools and ponds.”

One unmaintained (“green”) pool can produce hundreds of thousands mosquitoes per week, and those mosquitoes can fly up to 5 miles away.

The District recommends that residents

- Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are active, especially near dusk and dawn.
- Wear long sleeves and pants and use a mosquito repellent (always read and follow label directions) if they are outside when mosquitoes are active.
- Dump out buckets, wading pools, and other sources of water where mosquitoes develop.
- Call the District at 263-4770 or visit their website at [www.lcvcd.org](http://www.lcvcd.org) to request service if they are having problems with mosquitoes.

The Lake County Vector Control provides free mosquito-eating fish to Lake County residents for use in animal water troughs, ornamental ponds, and out-of-service (“green”) swimming pools, or residents can contact the District for assistance at 263-4770 or visit their website at [www.lcvcd.org](http://www.lcvcd.org).

West Nile virus has been detected in Lake County every year since its arrival in 2004, but only three residents have become ill from WNV infection in that time. Dr. Scott attributes the low incidence of West Nile virus disease in Lake County residents to the District’s vigorous efforts to control mosquitoes.

The Vector Control District regularly traps and tests mosquitoes throughout the county to identify the areas that are at highest risk, and target those areas for source reduction and treatment. The District reports that mosquito activity—particularly for the *Culex* mosquitoes that transmit WNV—has been very high in some localized areas of the county. While mosquitoes are an important part of the environment and cannot be

eliminated completely, the District works to reduce mosquito populations near places where people live and recreate to prevent disease.

Residents with questions, or who would like help with a mosquito problem should contact the Lake County Vector Control District at 263-4770 or visit their website at [www.lcvcd.org](http://www.lcvcd.org). For more information about West Nile virus, visit <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>.

**Summary of WNV activity in Lake County from 2003 through September 8, 2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Human	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Equine	0	4	10	2	0	1	0	0	<b>0</b>
Dead Bird	0	30	32	8	3	2	2	0	<b>0</b>
Mosquito	0	17	32	12	8	3	2	3	<b>3</b>
Sentinel Chickens	0	1	4	6	2	1	1	0	<b>0</b>
Squirrel	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

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