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To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date of Release: July 12, 2023



MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN KINGS COUNTY

HANFORD, CA – The Kings Mosquito Abatement District (KMAD) has confirmed that thirteen (13) mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) throughout different Kings County locations. The positive mosquito samples were collected from the western side of the District along the Kings River, between Excelsior Avenue to the North and Highway 198 to the South. Additionally, positive samples were also collected near the cities of Lemoore and Hanford, and near the Santa Rosa Rancheria.

“In addition to West Nile, mosquitoes can carry other viruses such as St. Louis Encephalitis, Dengue, Malaria and Zika virus,” said Michael Cavanagh, KMAD District Manager. *“Kern County recently reported its first human case of St. Louis Encephalitis, and we anticipate that the number of those cases will increase throughout Kings County and other counties affected by the recent flooding.”*

KMAD officials are working with the Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) to spread awareness regarding the potential risk mosquitoes carry, particularly for individuals at higher risk of developing serious symptoms. *“The detection of West Nile Virus in mosquitoes in Kings County, as well as the reporting of a human case of St. Louis Encephalitis in Kern County are warnings that residents should take all precautions to avoid being exposed to any of these viruses,”* said Rose Mary Rahn, KCDPH Director.

The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to dump and drain containers that may hold water each week. Residents are encouraged to check bird baths, buckets, water bowls, trash cans, discarded tires, or drainage ditches with standing water.

Additionally, practicing the “Three D’s” can help protect individuals against mosquitoes’ bites.

1. **DEET** – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or lemon or eucalyptus oil prior to going outdoors.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK** – Be sure to wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and insect repellent when spending time outside of the home during DAWN and DUSK.
3. **DUMP AND DRAIN** – It is important to remove any standing water around your yard. By dumping and draining birdbaths, wading pools, buckets, changing water in pet dishes, it will reduce the development of mosquitoes.



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Kings County residents are encouraged to report a neglected swimming pool (green pool) or if they require assistance with eliminating other mosquito breeding grounds. A variety of services are offered free of charge by KMAD. For additional information, a list of services, and to submit a service request please call (559) 584-3326 or visit <https://kingsmosquito.net/>.

All residents are also encouraged to report dead birds on the California West Nile website at www.westnile.ca.gov or by calling 1-877-968-2437.