

San Joaquin County West Nile Virus Task Force



News Release

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Continued West Nile Virus Evidence Found in First Sentinel Chicken in San Joaquin County

(STOCKTON, CA) – The first sentinel chicken tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in San Joaquin County for 2007. The WNV positive chicken is located in zip code 95242. In addition, the District was notified of a WNV positive squirrel in zip code 95377.

The District maintains four flocks of chickens, located throughout San Joaquin County, to be used as sentinels for disease surveillance. When these birds are bitten by a mosquito infected with various mosquito-borne diseases including WNV, they develop antibodies to the virus. The District therefore takes blood samples biweekly from March through November, checking for these antibodies.

The District performs aggressive surveillance and control of local mosquito populations in response to increased detection of WNV. Mosquito control activities include spraying aquatic sources where mosquitoes breed, spraying for adult mosquitoes, using mosquito-eating fish, educating the public, and legal enforcement where necessary.

In addition to the above surveillance data, there are four (4) additional birds in zip codes 95211, 95336, 95337, and there are three (3) additional WNV positive mosquito test groups located in zip code 95207 and 95219.

For 2007 to date there has been one reported West Nile virus positive human case, 16 dead birds, 58 groups of collected mosquitoes, one sentinel chicken, and one squirrel testing positive for West Nile virus in San Joaquin County.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- **Dump or drain** all sources of standing water on your property.
- **DEET** is an effective ingredient used in mosquito repellents.
- **Dusk and dawn** are when mosquitoes are most active. Limit outdoor activities or take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

For more information about West Nile virus:

- Report mosquito problems to:
SJC Mosquito & Vector Control District at (209) 982-4675 or 1-800-300-4675
- San Joaquin County recorded information line: (209) 469-8200
- San Joaquin County WNV website: www.sjgov.org/oes
- Report dead birds and tree squirrels to 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov.
(Statewide information can also be obtained)

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