



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

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NEW DETECTIONS OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Redwood City, CA – West Nile Virus was detected in a squirrel and a raven. The squirrel was collected from Redwood City on August 17, 2010 and is the **second** positive squirrel this year.

The raven, collected on the beach near the mouth of Gazos Creek in San Mateo County on August 24, 2010, had a low level of West Nile Virus. The low level indicates that the bird was not likely infected recently, and possible acquired the virus last year. Chronic infections such as this do not indicate an increase in WNV transmission risk for humans. Ravens, crows and jays are highly susceptible to West Nile Virus. Initially, this bird was incorrectly reported as having been collected in Portola Valley.

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people who contract West Nile Virus do not have any symptoms. About 20% of people infected experience flu-like symptoms. Approximately 1 in 150 infected people will develop a severe illness which may cause permanent neurological effects. People age 55 and older are most susceptible to West Nile Virus.

REPORT DEAD BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS

Dead birds or tree squirrel reports are the district's best means of detecting whether virus is circulating in the environment and being transmitted by mosquitoes. Residents are encouraged to help by reporting recently dead birds and tree squirrels online at www.westnile.ca.gov or by phone at:

877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473)

“Residents who are getting bitten by mosquitoes around their homes or workplaces should contact the district,” said Dr. Chindi Peavey, Laboratory Director for SMCMVCD. Measures that can help people protect themselves from mosquito bites include:

- Eliminate standing water
- Wear repellent in areas with a lot of mosquitoes
- Stay covered or inside during dawn and dusk

To report a significant mosquito problem in San Mateo County, contact the District at:
(650) 344-8592

For more information on West Nile Virus and other district services, visit us on the web at:
www.smcmad.org.