



Media Advisory

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS WARN CALIFORNIANS TO PREPARE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON

WHAT: California Department of Health Services' (CDHS) officials will provide a briefing on West Nile virus (WNV) that includes the impact of heavy winter rains on the upcoming WNV season; surveillance activities, such as sophisticated mapping that identifies dead bird reports and human infections; risk to the public of acquiring WNV; and activities to promote WNV Awareness Week (April 24 to 30).

WHEN: Tuesday, April 25, at 11 a.m.
(Note: WNV press conference immediately follows briefing by Governor's press secretary)

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 1190
Sacramento, CA

WHO: Participants include:

- Dr. Mark Horton, State Public Health Officer, CDHS
- Vicki Kramer, Ph.D., Chief, Vector-Borne Disease Section, CDHS
- Kent Fowler, DVM., Chief, Animal Health Branch, Department of Food and Agriculture

WHY: Last year, 935 human WNV infections were reported in California and 19 people died. WNV was also detected in 54 of 58 counties. Heavy rains in recent months and warm weather may lead to an increase in the mosquito population this season. Currently, there is no specific treatment for WNV infection. Californians must practice prevention techniques as the state enters the season when mosquitoes are most active.

VISUALS: Color map of areas in Sacramento County showing dead bird reports and proximity to human illnesses.