



# County of Fresno

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

David Pomaville, Director  
Dr. Ken Bird, Health Officer

### NEWS RELEASE

Public Health Communication  
Media Phone: (559) 259-1798

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## First 2016 West Nile Virus Positive Human Case in Fresno County

The Fresno County Department of Public Health has received confirmation that an adult male resident of the city of Fresno is the first West Nile Virus (WNV) positive human case in Fresno County in 2016.

Statewide in 2015, a total of 783 symptomatic human cases of WNV were reported with 53 deaths. Fresno County reported eight symptomatic human cases with no fatalities, as well as 6 asymptomatic human cases, identified during blood donor testing.

“Confirmation of this case is a strong reminder that West Nile Virus is still present in our County and everyone should increase efforts to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites,” states Dr. Ken Bird, Health Officer, Fresno County Department of Public Health.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes or contracting WNV, Fresno County residents are urged to take the following precautions:

- Apply insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions.
- Use repellent, especially in the early morning and in the evening, when mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that have holes.
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home.
- Contact mosquito abatement districts to report poorly maintained swimming pools or water features that appear green. Neglected pools are a primary source of mosquito breeding in residential areas.
- Get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds or horse troughs from mosquito abatement districts. For information about mosquito fish, call (559) 896-1085.
- Report dead birds and dead tree squirrels at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

Residents can visit the Fresno County Department of Public Health website at [www.fcdph.org](http://www.fcdph.org) to download a “Heard the Buzzzzz?” brochure which contains steps to protect their family, their home, and their community from WNV. Click “Mosquito Season Has Arrived” on the main page.

Residents can also call (559) 268-6565 to speak to a mosquito abatement district representative or visit [www.fresnomosquito.org](http://www.fresnomosquito.org) and/or [www.mosquitobuzz.net](http://www.mosquitobuzz.net)

For additional information about WNV or to report dead birds and dead tree squirrels, visit the California Department of Public Health website at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

### ***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

1221 Fulton Mall / P. O. Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775  
(559) 600-3200 • FAX (559) 600-7687

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