

Information about West Nile Virus- July 2009

The Student Health Center would like to keep the campus community informed about West Nile virus. WNV has also been detected this summer in mosquitoes in Stanislaus County. The best overall defense against WNV is to avoid mosquito bites.

West Nile virus infection can result if an infected mosquito bites a person. About twenty percent of those infected will develop temporary mild symptoms while less than one percent may develop severe or life-threatening symptoms. People 50 and over are at greater than average risk of serious illness from WNV. It makes sense to reduce the risk of infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

Current risk reduction strategies include:

- **Avoidance of mosquitoes-** Use common sense. Limit activities at dawn and dusk, dress appropriately
- **Use of insect repellent-** Repellents containing DEET or picardin offer the most effective protection
- **Mosquito control.** Eliminate stagnant water that can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

The existence and spread of West Nile virus can be traced through dead birds. So, it is helpful to report any dead bird you may see on campus. Dead bird reporting guidelines may vary from county to county or change with time. For reporting of dead birds on the Turlock campus, please contact Amy Thomas in Environmental Health and Safety at x3114.

You can view the state's WNV website at

<http://westnile.ca.gov/>

Comprehensive information about West Nile Virus is available at the Center for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Stanislaus County public health department WNV information:

<http://www.stanemergency.com/content/diseases/wnv/index.shtm>

If you would like further information, you can reach Bruce J. Wilbur, M.D. at the Student Health Center at (209) 667-3396.