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Mosquitoes infected with virus found in Shasta County

by Ashley Gardner

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Latin name: *Culex pipiens*



REDDING, Calif. — A mosquito sample containing 38 mosquitoes has tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) in Anderson, according to Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD).

Officials say this is the first time SLEV has been detected in Shasta County since 1972. This sample was detected as part of regular mosquito-borne disease surveillance.

Similar to the 2019 case (WNV), SLEV is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. WNV shares the same symptoms as SLEV, including fever, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Severe neuroinvasive disease often involves encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain that can occur in some cases. This development underscores the importance of continued vigilance in mosquito prevention efforts and the need for public cooperation in minimizing the risk of disease transmission.

“While this is the first positive test result in five decades, it serves as a crucial reminder that mosquitoes remain a significant public health concern in our region. This record year has brought historic mosquito numbers, record-high WNV positives in mosquitoes, and now re-emerging diseases. We are committed to protecting the community from vector-borne diseases and will be taking immediate action to address this finding,” said Peter Bonkrude, District Manager.


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Residents may receive email or text notifications for upcoming adult mosquito treatments. To sign up, go to [Mosquito Control Notifications](#) on their website.

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