

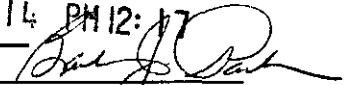
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

RESOLUTION No. _____ C. M. S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NADEL

2005 APR 14 PM 12:17



WEST NILE VIRUS/MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION 2005

WHEREAS, in 2004, West Nile Virus killed 27 people in California and sickened over 800 individuals; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, hundreds of dead birds and squirrels were reported in Alameda County and tested for West Nile Virus and 28 were found to be infected with the virus; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control predict West Nile virus poses a grave public health threat in California in 2005, particularly in the Central Valley and Northern California; and

WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control, disease surveillance and public awareness programs are the best way to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

WHEREAS, Mosquitoes that are commonly found within California are known vectors of the West Nile virus, which has struck with deadly force throughout the United States in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about West Nile virus, other diseases and mosquito and vector biology and control; and

WHEREAS, "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week" will increase the public's awareness of the threat of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight the educational programs currently available; and

WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has designated the week of April 25 through May 1, 2005, as "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week" in the State of California; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland hereby declares that the week of April 25 through May 1, 2005, be designated as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2004

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES— BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES—

ABSENT—

ABSTENTION—

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

West Nile Disease

Facts for Oakland Residents

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What is West Nile Disease? West Nile Disease is a disease caused by a virus, the West Nile Virus.

How could I get it? West Nile Disease is mainly transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. It can also be transmitted by contaminated blood – through a transfusion, if the blood donor carried the disease. You can't get West Nile Disease from contact with a person carrying the disease.

How is it spread? The main source of West Nile Disease is birds that carry the disease. Many bird species can carry West Nile Disease. Some, especially crows and jays, are very sensitive to the virus and quickly die. Others, like sparrows, get sick, but survive and continue to carry the virus. Mosquitoes bite infected birds, pick up the virus, and then transmit it to people (and other animals) when they bite them. While mosquitoes move around some, the disease's spread is mostly due to bird migrations – sometimes over thousands of miles.

What are the symptoms? Most people who are infected show only slight, if any symptoms. Between three days and two weeks after being bitten, about one in five infected people will get flu-like symptoms. These can include muscle aches, headache, high fever, rash, vomiting, loss of energy, and swollen glands. Most of these will recover without ill effects. In about one in 150 infections, more serious and potentially life-threatening complications occur, including encephalitis (infection of the brain). Most at risk are infants, the elderly and those with lowered immunity.

Has it struck Oakland? Not yet. West Nile Virus entered California last year. This year, it has spread throughout the state, including the Bay Area. However, only one human case has been reported in the Bay Area (in San Jose), and no virus-carrying mosquitoes have yet been found in Alameda County.

There is little question, however, that it will reach Oakland. This year's mosquito season is drawing to a close, but mosquitoes will return next spring, and will again pick up West Nile Virus from infected birds. Based on Southern California's experience this year, we can expect several hundred human cases next year in the Bay Area, including a significant number in Oakland. We can also expect a small number of disease fatalities.

What Can I do about it? Oakland residents can do a lot to protect themselves: 1) Get rid of mosquito breeding places around your home. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, everything from clogged rain gutters to bird baths to flooded basements to pails in your back yard. Eliminate places where water can collect, and you'll eliminate mosquitoes. 2) Avoid getting bitten. The mosquitoes that carry the virus bite mostly at dusk and in the early evening. Avoid being outside then. If you are outside, wear long sleeves and use mosquito repellent containing "DEET" (20% for adults, 5% for kids). Put screens on any windows you leave open. 3) Report newly-dead birds (or squirrels) at 1-877-968-2473 (WNV-BIRD). 4) Report mosquito problems to the County Mosquito Abatement District at: www.mosquitoes.org or (510) 783-7744.

There isn't yet a human vaccine or treatment, but there is a vaccine for horses. If you own a horse, you should have your veterinarian administer the vaccine.