



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Mental Health ♦ Public Health ♦ Social Services

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jacqueline Cummins
Mendocino County Health and Human Services
Information/Communication Officer
Phone: (707) 463-7853
Email: cumminsj@mcdss.org

PUBLIC WORK SHOP ON MOSQUITO LARVAL CONTROL

Environmental Health Division to Conduct Work shop Using the Precautionary Principle

The precautionary principle was passed as a Mendocino County Administrative Policy by the Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2006. It is intended as a tool to help the County make decisions that will have the best long term effect on the health, well being and environment of Mendocino County. The Health and Human Services Agency's Environmental Health, a division of Public Health Branch, following the precautionary principle model, will hold a public work shop on January 23, 2008, to discuss the use of mosquito larval control as a preventive measure against West Nile Virus.

West Nile Virus is a disease transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most human infections are mild with flu like symptoms and fever lasting a few days. Severe cases can develop into West Nile encephalitis, meningitis, or meningoencephalitis. There have been 379 reported human cases of West Nile Virus in California in 2007.

In an effort to protect the health of Mendocino County residents the Division of Environmental Health (DEH) conducts an ongoing public education campaign emphasizing the need to get rid of standing water around homes, and how to protect

against being bitten by wearing long sleeves and pants and avoiding the outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. In addition, DEH has implemented mosquito larval control by providing mosquito fish to the public and on occasion applying larvicide to standing water.

The public is encouraged to provide comment to assist DEH in evaluating available larvae control products and their impact on the environment, practical alternatives, and best management practices for their application. The work shop will be held on January 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mendocino County Administrative Building Conference Room C, located at 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. Additional information can be obtained by calling DEH at 463-4466.

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