

Vector Management Program

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is spread by the bite of infected mosquitos. Symptoms include fever, headaches, neck stiffness and muscle weakness, and the incubation period is 3 - 14 days. Prevention includes the application of DEET based or other mosquito repellents, or the wearing of long sleeve shirts and pants when outside during the dusk to dawn hours, when the implicated mosquito species are most prevalent. House screens should be in good condition and all standing water eliminated.

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

Plague

Plague is naturally occurring throughout AlpineCounty. It is a bacterial disease caused by the bite of an infected rodent flea. Symptoms include fever and swollen lymph nodes. Rodents that carry plague infected fleas include the California Ground squirrel, chipmunks and rabbits. Preventative measures include limiting your exposure to rodents while hiking or camping, and keeping your pets, especially dogs and cats, away from rodents.

www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Plague.aspx

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/plague/>

Hantavirus

The hantavirus found in Alpine County is known as the Sin Nombre Virus. The primary carrier is the deer mouse. The mice shed the virus through urine, droppings and saliva. People are exposed when the virus becomes airborne and is inhaled or by direct hand contact and cross contraindication of the mouth, nose or eyes. Symptoms typically occur from one to six weeks following exposure and symptoms include high fever, chills, severe muscle aches and fatigue.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov//healthinfo/discond/pages/hantaviruspulmonarysyndrome.aspx>

Rabies

People usually get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. Animals associated with rabies include raccoons, skunks, bats, dogs, cats, foxes, cattle and coyotes. Post exposure treatment is provided by a series of vaccinations over a 28 day period. The wounds should be thoroughly washed with soap and water to decrease the risk of infection.

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>