

San Mateo County Public Health Reporting Guidelines

NEWS

Whooping cough outbreak has health officials on lookout

BY SARA GAISER
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A confirmed outbreak of whooping cough at San Mateo High School has San Mateo County health officials urging parents and doctors to be alert for signs of the infectious disease.

A total of seven students at the high school are believed to have caught whooping cough, also known as pertussis, and a number of others have been tested over the past month, said Beverly Thames, spokeswoman for the San Mateo County Health Services Agency. None of the students are sick enough to be hospitalized.

'One possible reason why we're seeing it in the high school is that most children are immunized for pertussis, and then around the age of 12 experts believe their immunity starts to wane.'

County spokeswoman Beverly Thames

Health department urging residents to exercise caution

BY MARY F. ALBERT
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — The West Nile virus season is off to an early start this year.

The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District received word Wednesday that a bird, a pine siskin, found in residential Hillsborough on March 24 tested positive for the virus, officials announced Thursday.

This is the first reported case of

this year may be different.

The first case in 2004 was detected at the end of July — four months later than this year.

"I have no way to predict how many human cases we will see [this year]," said Peavey. "But I don't think it is going to stop."

Last year, 830 Californians contracted the disease and 28 people died from it throughout the state, according to California's West Nile virus home page.

So far, at least 19 counties have reported cases this year, according to state reports. These include Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

This week's incident serves as a reminder that "people need to take steps to protect themselves," said

bars visitors after flu hits

BY SARA GAISER
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A Burlingame nursing home has been closed temporarily to visitors because of a flu outbreak, hospital officials said yesterday.

Five cases of influenza B have been confirmed at Burlingame Long Term Care, which is owned by San Mateo County and operated as part of the San Mateo Medical Center, said Dave Hook, medical center spokesman. Tests by state health officials indicated the patients had influenza B.

The patients who initially became sick have already recovered, but one more patient currently has flu-like symptoms. State public health laws require the facility to remain closed until seven days after the last influenza case.

"The procedure," Hook said, "we follow unless absolutely necessary. It's an added precaution."

Hook said elderly patients are particularly vulnerable to the flu. All patients and staff at the nursing home were vaccinated against the flu in the fall, but the vaccine does not provide 100 percent protection in part because there are multiple strains of the flu virus circulating in the population.



San Mateo County Health Department
Public Health Division
225 37th Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 573-2346
www.smhealth.org/ph

For the latest revisions, go to <http://www.smhealth.org/PHreporting>

Coronavirus infections spread

Two other County assisted living facilities report outbreaks

County spokeswoman Beverly Thames