



West Nile Virus Hotline Staffing on Furlough Fridays

On July 1, the governor announced that as a result of a failure to reach agreement on an amended Budget Act, the size of the anticipated \$24.3 billion budget shortfall has grown by \$2 billion. The governor thus implemented actions in conjunction with declaring a fiscal emergency, including ordering an additional furlough day for state employees, bringing the total to three days per month <http://gov.ca.gov/executive-order/12634/>.

The Executive Order requires the closure of state government on furlough days that will be implemented beginning Friday, July 10, and the subsequent two Fridays for July. Beginning in August, the furlough days will occur on the first three Fridays of every month. On furlough Fridays, the West Nile virus (WNV) hotline will not be staffed with live operators. However, callers will be able to leave a message reporting dead birds and these calls will be transcribed on Saturday. The dead bird reports will be incorporated into the DYCAST risk modeling system which is based on dead bird reports, not testing.