



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Two Human Cases of West Nile Virus Reported in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has received a report of two human cases of West Nile Virus in the western parts of the Antelope Valley. One person fell ill in early July, the other one in late July, and both were hospitalized due to the severity of the disease.

“Even though most people who are infected with West Nile Virus do not show any symptoms, some can develop illness that can range from fever and body aches to severe symptoms affecting the central nervous system,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Most people don’t take it serious, until they are personally affected or know someone who is.”

The AVMVCD has also detected the virus in more chickens from a flock near 45th Street West and Avenue L in Quartz Hill and one from a flock near 30th Street West and Avenue N-8 in Palmdale. This brings the total of WNV positives in the AV to 14 chickens and one mosquito sample.

The District urges people to remove any stagnant water around the yard, since that’s where mosquitoes will lay eggs and the larvae will hatch. Unmaintained swimming pools and other water sources that hold water for more than a week can breed thousands of mosquitoes in a very short time.

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility of the property owner and the AVMVCD. If both parties do their part to get rid or treat standing water, the entire community will benefit from less mosquitoes and less chances of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus.

As of 8/18/17 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 171 dead birds, 1,814 mosquito samples, and 58 sentinel chickens have tested positive for WNV in California. They have also reported 41 human cases of West Nile Virus in nine Counties.

The AVMVCD is also asking for the public's help in tracking down any occurrences of the invasive mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) in the Antelope Valley. These mosquitoes are able to transmit diseases like Zika virus and Dengue fever and have already been found in other areas of Southern California and the Central Valley – as close as the San Fernando Valley. The District urges residents to report mosquitoes that bite during the day, so they can do follow up surveillance and find possible infestations.

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or showers
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- **Don't** use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill
- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).