



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Samples found in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – Two of twelve mosquito samples sent to UC Davis by the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District tested positive for West Nile Virus. The mosquitoes were trapped last week on the eastside of Lancaster.

“We have been seeing an increased number of mosquitoes on the eastside of Lancaster again this year, so we have increased the surveillance in that area,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Since we have positives in three corners of the Antelope Valley, we can presume that WNV is present everywhere, and we advise residents to protect themselves from mosquitoes by using insect repellent and removing dirty, stagnant water around the home.”

As of 7/28/14 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 35 Counties in 872 dead birds, 980 mosquito samples, and 39 sentinel chickens, as well as 15 human cases. So far the Antelope Valley has two WNV positive dead birds and two positive mosquito samples.

West Nile Virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Although most people that are infected do not show any symptoms, West Nile Virus is a potentially debilitating disease. Even ‘mild’ cases of West Nile Fever can cause patients enormous pain and discomfort for months.

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 thunder 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

Also remember to:

- Get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- 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) or check us out online at www.avmosquito.org, like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.