



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

For Immediate Release

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A Fourth AV Resident is Infected with West Nile Virus

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District was notified of a fourth human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the Antelope Valley today. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported that a woman in her 40s became ill with West Nile Fever in late July. She still has some lingering symptoms like weakness and muscle aches, but is on the way to recovery. Additionally, a mosquito sample and another dead bird tested positive for WNV in the AV. This brings the total cases of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley to 4 people, 3 mosquito samples, 10 sentinel chickens and 24 birds. Four additional chickens are awaiting confirmation of the test results.

The bird was found between 50th West and Avenue N in Quartz Hill. The mosquito sample was caught near 15th West and Avenue L. The positive chickens are located in Lancaster and Quartz Hill.

“The District would like to sincerely thank all of its residents in aiding in the battle against mosquito-transmitted disease and strongly encourage reporting more mosquito breeding sites and dead birds,” District Manager Cei Kratz said.

“We would like to urge all apartment, mobile home, and condo managers to include information about standing water on patios, balconies, and other kinds of container in their monthly newsletters to tenants,” said Barbara Little, President of the District’s Board of Trustees.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any dead birds to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Not all birds will be tested, but the data is vital in tracking and controlling the virus.

As of 8/12/09, 35 Counties in California show WNV activity in 298 dead birds, 388 mosquito samples, 32 chickens, 8 humans, 3 horses and two tree squirrels. At this time last year there were 1048 birds, 714 mosquito samples, 54 humans, 31 chickens, 5 squirrels and 3 horses from 36 Counties reported to be positive for WNV.

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. District officials urge residents to take individual responsibility, and remember the 3 D's protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus:

- * DRAIN all standing water – Empty out small containers at least once a week, keep pools and spas chlorinated or drained, and repair all water leaks. Conserve water and prevent mosquito breeding.
- * DUSK and DAWN – are peak activity times for mosquitoes.
- * DEFEND yourself - wear long sleeved shirts and pants and use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 when outdoors during mosquito activity. Always follow instructions on the product label. Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

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.