



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
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[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**July 11, 2016**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **Three Chickens Test Positive for West Nile Virus in West Palmdale**

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was notified that three chickens from a coop in West Palmdale have tested positive for West Nile Virus. The chicken coop is located near 50<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue N. This brings the total for 2016 to four WNV positive chickens in the Antelope Valley.

“Just because the positives have been detected in a certain area does not mean that it’s the only place that has West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “People all over the AV should protect themselves from mosquito bites and make sure to get rid of standing water.”

District officials urge residents to follow these tips to avoid getting mosquito bites and West Nile Virus infection:

- Follow the 3 D’s (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Keep swimming pools maintained or completely dry
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Don’t use bug zappers near your house – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

As of 7/8/16 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 31 Counties in 435 dead birds, 607 mosquito samples, and 12 sentinel chickens.

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

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.

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