



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

For Immediate Release

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Avoid Mosquitoes this Holiday Weekend

Lancaster, CA – Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America, but it also marks the unofficial start of summer with backyard BBQs and pool parties. The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District urges residents to avoid mosquito bites while enjoying the outdoors.

The District advises people to remove any stagnant water around the yard, since that's where mosquitoes will lay eggs and the larvae will hatch. Anything that can hold water for more than a week is a potential mosquito source – from unkempt swimming pools, to bird baths and water fountains, to small toys that are left outside that retain water from sprinklers. So, while getting the yard ready for the weekend, residents need to check their properties for standing water to avoid mosquito breeding.

“The AVMVCD has contracted with an aerial surveillance company again this year to take overhead photos of the district in order to identify any pools that have not been cleaned and that pose a danger to valley residents”, said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Our pool teams will follow up on those properties to ensure that property owners either drain or clean the pools, thereby eliminating the threat of mosquitoes.”

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 (WNV).

So far this year the California Department of Public Health has reported four dead birds and 8 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV in California. They have also reported one human case of West Nile Virus in Kings County last month.

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).