



**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 19, 2016**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **Dead Bird in East Palmdale Tests Positive for West Nile Virus**

Lancaster, CA – A dead crow that was reported to the statewide West Nile Virus hotline ([westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov)) on July 11, 2016 has tested positive for the virus. It was picked up near 60<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue R in Palmdale. This is the first WNV positive bird in the Antelope Valley this year.

“Dead birds are another indicator that West Nile Virus has reemerged in the AV,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “The virus is endemic and will resurface each year at different times and with varied intensity depending on weather and other factors. The heat wave in late May and early June has started the transmission cycle a little earlier than in the past couple of years.”

As of 7/18/16 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 30 Counties in 547 dead birds, 896 mosquito samples, and 19 sentinel chickens. No human cases have been reported to date. The AV has a total of four chickens and one bird that tested positive for WNV.

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

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).