



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Warm Temperatures Give Mosquitoes Early Start

Lancaster, CA – Above normal temperatures have sped up mosquito development and the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has seen higher than usual mosquito counts in some traps around the district. The California Department of Public Health already reports West Nile Virus activity in 12 dead birds, 2 mosquito samples, and one sentinel chicken from 5 Counties.

“This week marks the West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week in California (ACR132),” said Cei Kratz, District Manager of the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD). “This is a reminder for everybody to do their part and get rid of standing water and protect themselves from mosquito bites.”

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.

To keep mosquitoes away and stay safe, follow these tips:

- 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.