



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
42624 6th St. East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942 – 2917
www.avmosquito.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2014

Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

Increased West Nile Virus Activity Ahead of Labor Day Weekend

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District urges residents to take precautions while enjoying outdoor celebrations this Labor Day weekend. Two more mosquito samples as well as 22 sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley. The chickens were from coops located in Palmdale, Quartz Hill and Lancaster and the mosquitoes were collected in Lancaster (see map).

“August and September are usually the peak months for mosquito activity and disease transmission,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Labor Day weekend is traditionally a time to spend with family and friends enjoying BBQs and other outdoor activities. We advise residents to use insect repellents while outside in the evenings to protect themselves from mosquito bites.”

As of 8/27/14 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 36 Counties in 1,643 dead birds, 2,305 mosquito samples, and 184 sentinel chickens, as well as 129 human cases with 6 fatalities. So far the Antelope Valley has detected WNV activity in three dead birds, four mosquito samples, and 22 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, 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.

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 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).