



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
42624 6<sup>th</sup> St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942 – 2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

For Immediate Release

**August 27, 2015**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **More West Nile Virus Positive Chickens in the Antelope Valley**

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District reports a second sentinel chicken from a flock in Palmdale tested positive for West Nile Virus. This one is located on the eastside of town.

“We utilize 10 flocks of chickens that are strategically located around the Antelope Valley to monitor for West Nile Virus,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “When our chickens test positive, we know that there are infected mosquitoes in that area.”

Residents should be alert at all times and avoid creating mosquito habitat by removing standing water and protecting themselves against mosquito bites. District officials provide the following tips to avoid getting mosquito bites and West Nile Virus infection:

- Follow the 3 D’s (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or thunder showers
- 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 patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

As of 8/26/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 39 Counties in 552 dead birds, 1,768 mosquito samples, and 150 sentinel chickens, as well as 57 human cases with 2 fatalities.

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.

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](http://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).

