



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

For Immediate Release

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Mosquito Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was informed that a mosquito sample collected in Palmdale near 20th Street East and Avenue Q tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first positive mosquito sample for this year.

District staff collects mosquitoes in different areas of the Antelope Valley each week and sends those to UC Davis for testing.

“Although the nights have been getting cooler lately, it’s important that people still take precautions against mosquitoes and the diseases they can transmit,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “That includes removing standing water, keeping pools maintained or dry, wearing mosquito repellents at dusk and dawn, and making sure window screens are in good repair.”

The California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 37 Counties in 1,276 dead birds, 3,249 mosquito samples, 296 sentinel chickens, as well as 234 human cases with five fatalities.

Zika:

The Los Angeles County Public Health has identified 69 people with Zika virus, who have traveled to areas, where the virus is endemic. So far there have not been any cases of “local transmission” in California.

Zika virus is another mosquito-borne virus that is transmitted from one person to another mainly by a certain types of mosquitoes called Yellow - fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) or the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). These mosquitoes are very aggressive day-time biters and like to be in close proximity to people. Their eggs are laid in containers and can dry up for a very long time, ready to hatch whenever water is filled into the container.

Although those mosquito species have been found in other areas of Los Angeles County, at this time there is no evidence of them in the Antelope Valley. Residents are urged to report any day-time mosquito activity to the AVMVCD, so they can inspect the area, to see, if those are the invasive *Aedes* species.

For more detailed information about Zika virus visit www.cdc.gov/zika or <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx>.

District officials urge residents to follow these tips to avoid getting mosquito:

- 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, 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).