



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Season Begins in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – A West Nile Virus positive chicken in Quartz Hill marks the start of the 2016 WNV season in the Antelope Valley. The chicken is located in a flock near 45th Street West and Avenue L.

“The hot weather that we have been experiencing lately is creating ideal conditions for mosquito breeding and virus transmission,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Water turns green faster and mosquitoes develop from egg to adults in only 5 days.”

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

As of 6/22/16 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 19 Counties in 243 dead birds, 185 mosquito samples, and 2 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.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).