



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2017

Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

Keep Mosquitoes at Bay This Labor Day Weekend

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District urges residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites during the Holiday weekend. The recent rainfall during the thunderstorms combined with the high temperatures are creating ideal conditions for mosquitoes. Since West Nile Virus has been detected in the Antelope Valley, it is important to take precautions to stay safe.

The District gives the following advice:

- Use CDC approved insect repellents when outside during mosquito activity (DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535)
- Check property after each thunderstorm for standing water and get rid of it
- Make sure your screen on windows and doors are in good repair
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- 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

This week a third mosquito sample has tested positive for West Nile Virus in Lancaster. The mosquitoes were collected near 15th Street West and Avenue I. This brings the WNV+ total in the AV to 3 mosquito samples, 20 chickens, and 3 human cases.

As of 9/1/17 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 239 dead birds, 2,284 mosquito samples, and 130 sentinel chickens have tested positive for WNV in California. They have also reported 87 human cases and 3 fatalities.

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility of the property owner and the AVMVCD. If both parties do their part to get rid of standing water, the entire community will benefit from less mosquitoes and less chances of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus.

The AVMVCD is also asking for the public's help in tracking down any occurrences of the invasive mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) in the Antelope Valley. These mosquitoes are able to transmit diseases like Zika virus and Dengue fever and have already been found in other areas of Southern California and the Central Valley – as close as the San Fernando Valley. The District urges residents to report mosquitoes that bite during the day, so they can do follow up surveillance and find possible infestations.

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus 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.

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