



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

For Immediate Release

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Two Human Cases of West Nile Virus Reported in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports the first human cases of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley for 2016. One case is a male blood donor who lives in Lancaster and has no symptoms, the other is a female resident of Palmdale who fell ill. The total number of human cases in Los Angeles County to date is 17, with 14 clinical cases and 3 asymptomatic blood donors.

The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District also reports a second bird found in West Palmdale has tested positive for the virus last week, bringing the total WNV activity to 9 sentinel chickens, two dead birds and two human cases.

“We have detected West Nile virus in our sentinel chickens since mid-June, so while the human infections are a concern, it is not a surprise,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “In response to these reports, our technicians are setting traps in those areas and increasing larval surveillance to identify and treat any unknown mosquito breeding sources, such as unkempt swimming pools.”

The District urges residents to stay safe by using mosquito repellents while outdoors in the evenings and early mornings when mosquitoes that potentially carry the virus are most active, and do their part at reducing mosquito populations by removing standing water that can harbor mosquito larvae on their property.

As of 8/12/16 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 35 Counties in 910 dead birds, 2,221 mosquito samples, and 135 sentinel chickens, as well as 22 human cases with one fatality.

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

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.

Also remember to:

- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- Report dirty 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).