



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

For Immediate Release

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Third Human Case of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – One of the 27 cases of West Nile Virus reported by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health this week is a resident of Lancaster. This brings the total for the Antelope Valley for this year to three with one fatality. The total number of human cases in Los Angeles County to date is 153 with 12 fatalities.

The Antelope valley Mosquito and Vector Control District also reported that 2 additional sentinel chickens that were sampled on October 28th tested positive. They were both located at flocks that had showed virus activity in the past.

“The temperature spike and rain that we had in late September and mid October were probably to blame for the virus transmission,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Recent temperature drops have significantly decreased the virus activity, even though mosquitoes might still be around.”

AVMVCD technicians are still checking for unkempt swimming pools and are finding some breeding. In preparation of a rainy El Nino season it is good to form a habit of removing standing water to avoid mosquito habitat. When collecting water in barrels and buckets it is important to cover them with screens to avoid mosquitoes from moving in

As of 11/6/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity in 40 Counties in 1,254 dead birds, 3,261 mosquito samples, and 423 sentinel chickens, as well as 512 human cases with 32 fatalities. The Antelope Valley is seeing WNV activity in 24 chickens, two mosquito samples and two 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 (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:

- 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.
- Vaccinate your horses properly.

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