



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Found in Rancho Vista

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District reports two mosquito samples collected this week in the Rancho Vista area tested positive for West Nile Virus.

“In a special meeting that was held yesterday, the Board of Trustees was informed by District staff that WNV infection numbers are well in range of other years,” said Board President Dennis Persons. “The number of positives are actually lower than they have been for the last three years for this time of year.”

As of 9/16/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 40 Counties in 786 dead birds, 2,444 mosquito samples, and 235 sentinel chickens, as well as 123 human cases with 2 fatalities. The Los Angeles County Public Health Department reports a total of 30 human cases and two deaths. So far the Antelope Valley has seen 16 positive chickens and two mosquito samples.

“Although temperatures are getting lower, we urge residents to continue to take precautions against mosquito bites,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “These precautions include removing standing water and using repellent while outside at dusk and dawn.”

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:

- Get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- 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.

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