



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

Celebrate your Independence Day Without Mosquitoes

Lancaster, CA – Fourth of July means barbeques and outdoor get-togethers with family and friends. The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District wants to remind residents to stay safe during those celebrations, not only from fireworks and the sun, but from mosquitoes and the diseases they are able to transmit. The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat watch for the latter part of this week, which will create ideal conditions for mosquito breeding.

“Just as we use sun screen to protect ourselves from the dangers of sun, we need to use insect repellents to stay safe from mosquito-borne viruses, such as West Nile Virus,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Our local mosquitoes are most active as the sun goes down and we get ready to watch the fireworks shows. This is when we need to be especially diligent about applying mosquito repellents.”

So far the AVMVCD has submitted 61 mosquito samples for testing and none of them have shown any signs of virus. Nevertheless the District urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Use CDC approved insect repellents when outside during mosquito activity (DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535)
- Check property 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

As of 6/29/18 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 35 dead birds, 47 mosquito samples, and 9 humans have tested positive for WNV in California. At this time last year, the virus had been detected in 39 dead birds, 412 mosquito samples, one sentinel chicken, as well as 3 human cases.

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).