



Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
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NEWS RELEASE

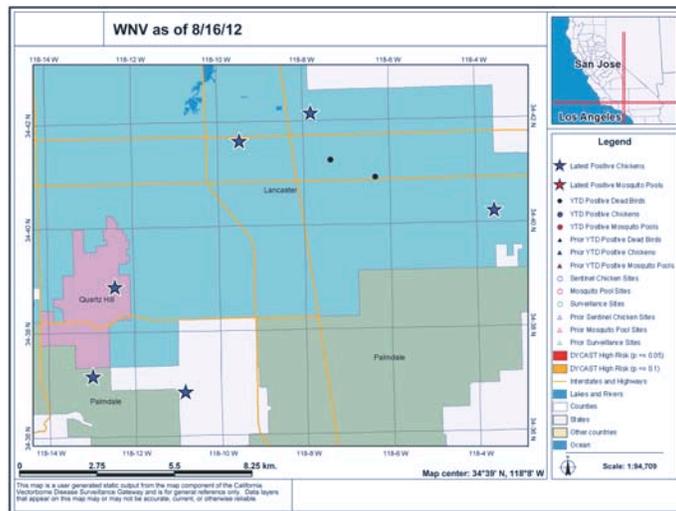
For Immediate Release

August 21, 2012

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More West Nile Virus Found in Chickens and Birds

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) received confirmation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) that an additional eleven chickens from six different coops (stars) have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Two dead birds (dots) that were reported by residents in East Lancaster also tested positive for the virus (see map below).



“The hot weather is creating the perfect conditions for mosquitoes and virus to multiply very quickly”, said District Entomologist Karen Mellor. “I can’t stress enough that residents have to do everything they can to avoid mosquitoes. That means eliminate habitat by removing standing water and keeping pools maintained. We want to make sure that everybody who is enjoying the cooler evening and morning hours outdoors takes proper precautions. This is when mosquitoes are most active and it is important to wear mosquito repellent during that time.”

As of August 17th the CDPH has reported 26 human cases and one fatality in California. Additionally 717 birds, 1,347 mosquito samples, 131 chickens, 6 horses, and two squirrels in 33 Counties have tested positive for WNV.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any dead birds to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Not all birds will be tested, but the data of dead bird clusters is vital in tracking and controlling the virus.

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.

District officials urge residents to take individual responsibility, and remember the 3 D’s to protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus:

- DRAIN all standing water – Empty out small containers at least once a week, keep pools and spas chlorinated or drained, and repair all water leaks. Conserve water and prevent mosquito breeding.
- DUSK and DAWN – are peak activity times for mosquitoes.
- DEFEND yourself - wear long sleeved shirts and pants and use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 when outdoors during mosquito activity. Always follow instructions on the product label. Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

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) or check us out online at www.avmosquito.org. like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.