



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

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For Immediate Release

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**Contact:**

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### **First Human Case of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley for 2015**

Lancaster, CA – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports the first human case of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley for 2015. At this time last year the Antelope Valley had two reported human cases. The total number of human cases in Los Angeles County to date is 50 with 4 fatalities.

The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District also reports 6 additional sentinel chickens tested positive for the virus this week, bringing the total WNV activity to 22 chickens, two mosquito samples and one human case.

“This human infection is a sad reminder that we all need to do our part to reduce the mosquito populations and take precautions to avoid mosquito bites,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Our technicians are checking and treating standing water in ditches, basins and curb and gutters, as well as unmaintained pools all around town, but each individual can help by removing standing water on their property and either maintain or drain pools to avoid mosquito breeding.”

“Mosquito control is a shared responsibility and we all have a role to play in our community,” said Board President Dennis Persons.

As of 9/23/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 40 Counties in 902 dead birds, 2,668 mosquito samples, and 269 sentinel chickens, as well as 157 human cases with 5 fatalities.

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](http://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](http://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).