



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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More Human Cases of West Nile Virus Detected in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) was informed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that two more human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been confirmed in the Antelope Valley. Both of these cases were described as “asymptomatic blood donors”.

“Most people infected with WNV do not have any symptoms, so they feel healthy when they are donating blood”, said District Entomologist Karen Mellor. “All blood donations are tested for the virus, to avoid transmitting it to a sick person receiving a blood transfusion.”

So far this year there have been a total of 18 human WNV cases reported in Los Angeles County, 75 cases with four fatalities in California, and 1,993 cases with 89 fatalities nationwide. As of September 7th the California Department of Public Health has also reported 1,086 birds, 2,080 mosquito samples, 276 chickens, 10 horses, and 8 squirrels that have tested positive for WNV in 34 Counties. The current total for the AV is 4 human cases, 2 birds and 28 sentinel chickens.

“The summer may officially be over after Labor Day, but we still have a couple of months of mosquito season left”, Mellor said. “The hot and humid weather has been accelerating mosquito and virus reproduction. We can’t let our guard down and have to keep vigilant at removing standing water and have to remember to wear repellent when outdoors.”

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.

The AVMVCD recommends following these simple steps to reduce the chances of mosquito bites and WNV infection:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or thunder showers
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Don't use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

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