



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 20, 2017

Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

First Mosquito Sample with West Nile Virus Collected in the AV for 2017

Lancaster, CA – One of nine mosquito samples submitted to UC Davis by the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The mosquito sample was collected near 20th Street East and Lancaster Blvd in Lancaster. This is the first sign of WNV in mosquitoes in the Antelope Valley this year.

“This is another reminder that West Nile Virus is active in the Antelope Valley,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “When mosquitoes test positive for WNV it means that people are at higher risk of being infected with the disease.”

People bitten by an infected mosquito may develop West Nile fever and experience flu-like symptoms that can include fever, body aches, skin rash, and fatigue. In some people, West Nile fever can develop into a more serious form of the disease.

The AVMVCD urges people to remove any stagnant water around the yard, since that’s where mosquitoes will lay eggs and the larvae will hatch. Unmaintained swimming pools and other water sources that hold water for more than a week can breed thousands of mosquitoes in a very short time.

Mosquito control is a shared responsibility of the property owner and the AVMVCD. If both parties do their part to get rid or treat standing water, the entire community will benefit from less mosquitoes and less chances of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus.

As of 7/14/17 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 71 dead birds, 681 mosquito samples, and 17 sentinel chickens have tested positive for WNV in California. They have also reported four human cases of West Nile Virus in Los Angeles, Kern, Kings, and San Bernardino Counties.

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.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or 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
- 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).