



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

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For Immediate Release

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### **Mosquito Safety Tips for Labor Day Activities**

Lancaster, CA – Labor Day weekend means friends and families get together for an end-of-summer camping trip, a backyard BBQ, a visit to the County fair, or some other outdoor activities. The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) would like to remind the public to keep mosquitoes in mind while they are enjoying the great outdoors.

“West Nile Virus infections are dramatically increasing nationwide as well as here locally”, said District Entomologist Karen Mellor. “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WNV cases have increased by 40% from last week.”

To stay safe this holiday weekend follow these tips:

- 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

As of August 29<sup>th</sup> the CDPH has reported 44 human cases and two fatalities in California.

Additionally 938 birds, 1,596 mosquito samples, 168 chickens, 8 horses, and three squirrels in 34 Counties have tested positive for WNV. The current total for the AV is 2 human cases, 2 birds and 28 sentinel chickens.

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](http://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.

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) or check us out online at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org). like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.