



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Cases Increase Before Labor Day Weekend

Lancaster, CA –The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) reports more sentinel chicken, dead birds and mosquito samples in the Antelope Valley have tested positive for West Nile Virus. On top of that, Los Angeles County Public Health just reported three human cases of WNV in Lancaster. The patients are all female between the ages of 40 and 60. Two of them had to be hospitalized, but have been discharged and are recovering.

This brings the West Nile Virus total in the AV to 3 human cases, 16 sentinel chickens, 4 mosquito samples, and three dead birds.

“Yesterday’s fogging of the area in East Lancaster was able to decrease the mosquito population by 75%,” District Entomologist Karen Mellor said. “The trap numbers are still higher than what we would like them to be, and we will continue to monitor and survey the area, to figure out where the source is.”

As a general precaution residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquito bites. 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

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.

As of August 29th the CDPH has reported 87 human cases and 5 fatalities in California. Additionally 903 birds, 1,562 mosquito samples, 229 chickens, 8 horses, and 5 squirrels from 40 Counties have tested positive for WNV.

District officials urge residents to take individual responsibility, and remember the 3 D’s 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.

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 (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.