



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
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[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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**Contact:**

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Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **First Sign of West Nile Virus in Antelope Valley**

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was notified that one chicken from a sentinel flock in Rancho Vista has tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first sign of the mosquito-borne disease in the AV for 2015.

“This is the latest in the season that West Nile Virus has been detected,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Usually we start to see the virus show up in May or June.”

District officials urge residents to follow these 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

As of 8/19/15 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 38 Counties in 446 dead birds, 1,577 mosquito samples, and 104 sentinel chickens, as well as 36 human cases with 2 fatalities.

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).