

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Press Release:
Friday May 28, 2010

Memorial Weekend – More Mosquitoes Found With West Nile Virus

May 28, 2010 – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District wishes to remind residents to take precautions against mosquito bites this long weekend.

Mosquitoes collected near Campus and Riverside on May 10th tested positive for West Nile virus. The District has already found West Nile virus in mosquitoes this year, the first in the state and the earliest indication of West Nile virus ever in the district. Early indications of the virus as well as early rains and mild temperatures may increase the risk of human disease.

Memorial Day sparks the beginning of Southern California's "outdoor" season. Many families will be spending a significant amount of time outdoors, especially during dusk, the peak time for mosquito activity. Using repellents is a must.

In an effort to increase public awareness, the District has teamed up with other local vector control agencies and purchased radio advertisements to run during the summer. Advertisements are being inserted into the traffic spots on major stations to best focus our efforts on what drivers and radio listeners are tuning in to. Spots will begin May 31st and run for several months.

Brian Reisinger, Community Outreach Coordinator for the District said, "When we're outside cooking dinner, let's not become dinner ourselves! Mosquitoes are going to be looking for bloodmeals around dusk and beyond, so personal protection is imperative. The active ingredients DEET, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are all available over the counter and provide excellent protection against bites."

More information can be viewed at www.wvmosquito.org or www.wvmvcd.org. The District phone number is 909-635-0307. The office is located at 1295 East Locust St. Ontario CA, 91761 and is open Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Symptoms of West Nile virus:

People infected with WNV can have no symptoms, West Nile Fever, or West Nile Neuroinvasive disease. Symptoms usually occur 2-15 days after infection.

Symptoms of West Nile Fever can include:

- Headaches (often severe migraines)
- High fever
- Tiredness and body aches
- Occasionally a skin rash and swollen lymph glands

Even healthy people may suffer sickness for several days to several weeks, and be unable to function normally.

Symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive disease can include:

- Severe Headache
- High Fever
- Stiff neck
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness
- Paralysis
- Coma

This form of the disease can lead to long-lasting if not permanent damage to the body and brain.

Remember to use these steps to protect yourself:

- **Dump standing water** – tires, buckets, birdbaths, flowerpots, and even soda cans become “mosquito nurseries”.
- **Defend your house** – make sure screens on windows and doors are tight fitting and in good repair.
- **Defend yourself** – when outdoors at dusk and dawn, use a mosquito repellent. The active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR 3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are the longest lasting and most effective.

For more information visit: <http://www.wvmosquito.org> and <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>.

Residents can also report dead birds and squirrels to the CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline, 877-WNV BIRD (968-2473) or visit on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information or an interview, please contact Dr. Min-Lee Cheng or Brian Reisinger at 909-635-0307.