

## **West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District**

1295 East Locust St. Ontario CA 91761  
Telephone 909-635-0307 Fax 909-635-0405  
Website: [www.wvmosquito.org](http://www.wvmosquito.org)

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Min-Lee Cheng, Ph.D.  
District Manager  
909-635-0307

Brian Reisinger  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
909-376-4376 Cell

For Immediate Press Release:

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#### **5 Birds and 5 Mosquito Samples Show West Nile Virus Activity in the West Valley**

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - A fifth mosquito sample and a fifth dead bird collected recently by West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District have tested positive for West Nile Virus. The dead bird was found on July 30<sup>th</sup> near 600 block of W. Hawthorne in Ontario. The mosquito sample was collected on July 21<sup>st</sup> near the Archery Range in Chino.

There are a total of thirty-three counties in California reporting dead bird, mosquito, squirrel or sentinel chicken samples testing positive for West Nile virus. Also two human cases have been reported in the State, one each in the counties of San Diego and Orange.

The District would like to sincerely thank all of its residents in aiding in the battle against mosquito-transmitted disease and strongly encourages reporting more mosquito breeding sites and dead birds.

#### **Call the District to report green pools, standing water, or mosquito problems:**

The District is here to help you with mosquito problems, and will take anonymous calls regarding green pools or mosquito breeding sources. It takes everyone's participation and help to fight mosquito-transmitted diseases.

### 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 can 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](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

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