

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Press Release:

October 2nd, 2009

First West Nile Virus Human Case in the West Valley in 2009

October 2nd, 2009 – A seventy-one year old resident of the City of Rancho Cucamonga is recovering from West Nile virus infection. She is the first West Nile virus human case reported in the County of San Bernardino in 2009. However, it is likely that she acquired the infection during a recent visit to northern California where she experienced mosquito bites.

In addition, the District has found more mosquitoes, sentinel chickens and crows that tested positive for West Nile virus infection during the past week. As of today, a total of one (1) human, fifty (50) mosquito samples, thirteen (13) dead birds, and five (5) sentinel chickens have tested West Nile virus positive in the West Valley.

The latest two (2) West Nile virus positive mosquito samples were collected from Carlos Street at Mission Boulevard in the City of Ontario. Both of the West Nile virus infected sentinel chickens were from a coop housed at the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Headquarters in the City of Ontario.

West Nile virus has spread to 41 counties in California. Sixty-two (62) human cases have been confirmed by the State Department of Public Health, including three (3) West Nile virus-related fatalities, one each in Los Angeles County, Merced County, and Fresno County.

We strongly urge the public to take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Please 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 Infection:

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.wmosquito.org> and <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>.

Residents can now follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

To follow us on Twitter visit: <http://www.twitter.com/WestValleyMVCD>

To find us on Facebook just search: West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control

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 at 909-635-0307.