

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Press Release:

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More Isolation of West Nile Virus in Mosquitoes in the West Valley

September 16, 2009 – Between August 25 and September 1, seventy-three (73) mosquito samples were tested by RT-PCR. Six (6) of the seventy-three have tested positive for West Nile virus, bringing this year's total to 43 mosquito samples, 8 dead birds, and 3 sentinel chickens tested positive.

The locations where the latest six West Nile virus positive mosquito samples were collected are as follows: one (1) from the 5000 block of Sapphire Avenue in the City of Rancho Cucamonga, two (2) from Carlos Avenue at Mission Boulevard, one (1) from the 600 block of West J-Street, and one (1) from Cottonwood Street at Parco Avenue, in the City of Ontario, and one (1) from the Prado Basin area in the City of Chino.

As of September 15th, West Nile virus has spread to 40 counties in California. Thirty-six (6) human cases have been confirmed by the State Department of Public Health. The majority of the human cases occurred in southern California. We strongly urge the public to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

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 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 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.