

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Press Release:
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Three More Mosquito Samples Positive for West Nile virus – Increased Human Transmission Feared

August 17, 2010 – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has received confirmation that more mosquitoes have tested positive for the presence of West Nile virus. The three samples were collected using traps that collect female mosquitoes looking for a place to lay eggs. Two traps were from Rancho Cucamonga, one near Haven and Manzanita, and one near Beryl St. and Baseline Rd. The other was in Ontario near San Antonio Ave. and Sixth St.

District Manager Min-Lee Cheng, Ph. D., said, “We already have word of a human case in Fontana, which is not far at all from us. We urge people to continue to protect themselves by using repellents and calling us when potential mosquito breeding sources are found. Mosquito-borne disease is not going away, but we can take steps to minimize its effects on our lives.”

This year has been mysterious for vector control. Temperatures would indicate that mosquito populations should be down, but currently California has reported more human infections and mosquito carrying the virus than last year: Human Cases = 10 (in 2009), 15 (in 2010); Mosquito Samples = 387 (in 2009), 562 (in 2010). With current temperatures creating enough heat to speed up mosquito breeding but not enough to dry up water sources, the district fears that more human cases could start showing up soon, as hungry mosquitoes emerge from their watery cocoons in search of blood.

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.