



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
42624 6<sup>th</sup> St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942 – 2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**September 28, 2012**

Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **Another Antelope Valley Resident Infected with West Nile Virus**

Lancaster, CA – A middle-aged Antelope Valley man was reported to be infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) was also notified that one sentinel chicken in Palmdale and two dead birds in Lancaster have tested positive for WNV this week. This brings the total for the AV to 8 human cases (2 blood donors and 6 symptomatic cases), 4 dead birds and 38 sentinel chickens.

“Although temperatures are starting to decrease, the mosquito season is not quite over, yet,” District Entomologist Karen Mellor said. “Many people may not use their swimming pools anymore and decide to ‘let them go’ for the winter. Unfortunately mosquitoes will still thrive in those pools and can spread WNV throughout the neighborhood.”

The AVMVCD is asking residents to report any unkempt pools, so that district staff can check and treat any mosquito breeding. They also advise pool owners to continue to maintain their pool, or to drain and winterize it, if it is no longer being used.

This week 19 human cases were reported in Los Angeles County, bringing the total to 54 human WNV cases and 2 fatalities in the County. As of September 26<sup>th</sup> the California Department of Public Health reported 165 human cases with 8 fatalities, 1,365 dead birds, 2,417 mosquito samples, 389 chickens, 20 horses, and 11 squirrels that have tested positive for WNV in 39 Counties.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any dead birds to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). Not all birds will be tested, but the data of dead bird clusters is vital in tracking and controlling the virus. The AVMVCD recommends following these simple steps to reduce the chances of mosquito bites and WNV infection:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Don't use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

West Nile Virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Although most people that are infected do not show any symptoms, West Nile Virus is a potentially debilitating disease. Even 'mild' cases of West Nile Fever can cause patients enormous pain and discomfort for months.

Also remember to:

- get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- vaccinate your horses properly.
- report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.
- report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917) or check us out online at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org). like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/antelopevalley.mosquito](http://www.facebook.com/antelopevalley.mosquito)) or follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito (<https://twitter.com/AVMosquito>).