



# Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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### **VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITO SAMPLE OF THE YEAR**

**INDIO, CA, FEBRUARY 25, 2011:** The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation from UC Davis of the first West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample of the year in the Coachella Valley. This is also the first mosquito sample to test positive for WNV in California this year. The mosquito sample was taken from a trap located in the North Shore area. District staff will be intensifying mosquito surveillance and larvicide in this area to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, WNV can become

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severe in young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems.

The District continues its extensive surveillance, prevention, and treatment programs throughout the Coachella Valley and urges residents to help reduce mosquito breeding sources by inspecting their backyards and neighborhoods for standing water sources at least once a week.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Report swimming pools and ornamental ponds that are not being maintained. Keep ornamental ponds and neglected pools free of excess vegetation.
- Contact the District for free mosquitofish to place in your ornamental pools, neglected pools or any other container with standing water that can potentially breed mosquitoes
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, and report neglected pools or standing water. Service requests can also be submitted online at [www.cvmvcd.org](http://www.cvmvcd.org).

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