

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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West Nile virus activity Increases Dramatically, Warning to Residents

July 28, 2010 – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation that five mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile virus. Three of the samples were collected in Ontario, near Philadelphia and South Baker, one in Rancho Cucamonga near Baseline and Beryl street, and one in Chino Hills near Pipeline and Glen Ridge Road. The samples were collected on the 12th and 19th of this month.

Dr. Min-Lee Cheng, District Manager said, "This warm weather, coupled with early rainfall and increased backyard (i.e. neglected swimming pools) sources, are prime conditions for mosquitoes to thrive. We must remember that West Nile virus is not going away and summers like this one are going to increase our chances of being bitten."

The entire state is seeing an increase in West Nile virus activity. Statewide, a total of five human cases have been reported (Stanislaus County = 3, Fresno County = 1, Kern County = 1). Last year at this time the State had only one human case reported. Northern California is seeing high numbers of mosquito samples testing positive as well, and Arizona is experiencing increased human cases as well. The sudden increase in virus activity is likely spurred by the spike in temperature the valley experienced in early July. This most likely lead to an increase in mosquito breeding and subsequently higher adult mosquito numbers in our area.

Brian Reisinger, Community Outreach Coordinator for the District said, "Personal protection is vital in summer now. Residents must remember to diligently monitor their yards for standing water, wear a good repellent when outdoors at dusk and dawn, and call the District when they need help. Our technicians are professionals, they can help locate and mitigate mosquitoes in your area."

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.