

## West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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# PRESS RELEASE

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Protecting Public Health

West Valley Mosquito  
and Vector Control District

For Immediate Press Release:

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### Beware of West Nile Virus Infected Mosquitoes

September 24, 2009 – As the temperature in the Inland Valley continues to soar, more West Nile virus infected mosquitoes and dead birds have been detected. The RT-PCR testing results showed that five (5) out of the forty-one (41) mosquito samples collected during the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> were infected with West Nile virus. As of today, a total of 48 mosquito samples, 11 dead birds, and 3 sentinel chickens have tested West Nile virus positive.

The latest five (5) West Nile virus positive mosquito samples were collected at the following locations: three (3) from Butterfield Drive at 71 Highway in the City of Chino Hills, one (1) from Vineyard Avenue at Riverside Drive in the City of Ontario, and one (1) from the Prado Basin area in the City of Chino.

As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, West Nile virus has spread to 41 counties in California. Fifty-two (52) human cases have been confirmed by the State Department of Public Health, including two (2) West Nile virus-related fatalities, one in Merced County and the other in Fresno County.

**We strongly urge the public to take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Please 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 Infection:

**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.wmosquito.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](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

**For more information or an interview, please contact Dr. Min-Lee Cheng at 909-635-0307.**