

## **West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District**

1295 East Locust St. Ontario CA 91761  
Telephone 909-635-0307 Fax 909-635-0405  
Website: [www.wvmosquito.org](http://www.wvmosquito.org)

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Min-Lee Cheng, Ph.D.  
District Manager  
909-635-0307

CONTACT:

Brian Reisinger  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
909-376-4376 Cell

For Immediate Release:

#### **Mosquito traps continue to show evidence of West Nile virus amongst first death recorded in San Bernardino County**

**Oct 23** – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District continues to monitor and collect mosquito samples throughout the region that are positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The risk of contracting WNV still remains high. As of October 23, the District has recorded 35 mosquito samples, 28 dead birds, and 7 chickens which have tested positive for the virus.

In San Bernardino County, 19 human cases have been confirmed by the County Department of Public Health, with 9 occurring in the boundaries of the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. One death attributed to WNV has been reported within the boundaries of the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. Throughout California, 301 human cases have been identified, with 11 WNV related fatalities.

Min-Lee Cheng, District Manager said, "We were saddened to hear of this (death), especially inside of our District boundaries. Our hearts and thoughts go out to all the families affected by mosquito-borne illness. This severely illustrates the importance of eliminating potential mosquito breeding sources and using personal protective measures to reduce your risk of getting bitten by mosquitoes. Dump out any standing water, make sure door and window screens fit well, and be sure to use a CDC recommended repellent - these seemingly small things truly can have a huge impact on your chances of contracting West Nile virus."

The District has seen the highest number of mosquito samples and sentinel chickens in Rancho Cucamonga and the surrounding Northern San Bernardino area this year. The District requests its residents to take mosquito control precautions seriously.

The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District urges residents to use repellents containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, Picaridin, or IR 3535. Maintaining swimming pools and minimizing standing water sources, and working with your local vector control agency are important tasks that can help your entire community. Report mosquito breeding sources to the District at 909-636-0307 or [www.wvmosquito.org](http://www.wvmosquito.org).

## 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](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

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