

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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Update: State's West Nile Activity High – Local Detection Continues

Aug 20, 2010 – California's West Nile virus activity is steadily increasing. Detection in humans and mosquito samples has surpassed 2009 records. Currently California has recorded 22 human cases of West Nile virus as compared to 10 at this time in 2009. In the West Valley, West Nile virus has been isolated from 14 mosquito samples collected from Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, and Rancho Cucamonga. The latest sample, collected on August 17th, was from the Prado Basin area.

District Manager Min-Lee Cheng, Ph. D., said, "We want our residents to be informed of potential threats in our area and make wise decisions when it comes to protecting themselves. The District can help. Call us when you suspect mosquito breeding in your area, dump out standing water, and most importantly, wear repellents when outside at dusk and dawn."

There is still a lot of summer left, temperatures continue to climb and humidity has increased. These are prime conditions for increased mosquito breeding and host-seeking (when female mosquitoes look for blood to produce their eggs). Residents are urged to diligently maintain properties and use recommended repellents to minimize their risk of mosquito bites.

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.