

## West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **3rd Bird, 4 Mosquito Samples Show West Nile Virus Circulating in Valley**

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Four mosquito samples recently collected by the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District have tested positive for West Nile virus. Two of the samples were collected in the mid-eastern portion of Ontario; the other two were collected in the northeastern portion of Chino. In addition, another bird collected in Chino, near Chino Avenue and Pipeline, has tested positive for the virus.

Dr. Min-Lee Cheng, District Manager said, “These current developments coincide with the valley’s recent heat wave. More heat means mosquitoes breed more and develop faster, which increases the risk to our residents.”

Dr. Steven Su, Vector Ecologist said, “Although West Nile virus activity has been slower than previous years, these mosquito samples and recent dead bird reports just prove that our residents need to be consistent and diligent in maintaining a mosquito free yard every year.”

There are a total of thirty-two counties in California reporting dead bird, mosquito, squirrel, or sentinel chicken samples positive for the virus, no human nor equine cases have yet been reported for the State.

The District sincerely thanks all of its residents in helping in the battle against mosquito-transmitted disease and encourages more to report potential mosquito breeding sites.

**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:**

**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 can 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: [www.wvmosquito.org](http://www.wvmosquito.org) and [www.westnile.ca.gov](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 Min-Lee Cheng or Brian Reisinger at 909-635-0307.**