
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Bird Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

On June 22, 2011, the City of Moorpark Vector Control Division received confirmation from the State Department of Public Health that one dead wild bird collected by vector control staff on June 14, 2011, tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The bird was collected from the City of Moorpark and is the first bird to test positive for the West Nile Virus in Ventura County this year. Now that West Nile Virus is established in Ventura County, it is expected that additional West Nile positive birds will be collected.

Vector control staff routinely monitors and controls mosquito breeding sources throughout the City of Moorpark. In response to the positive bird finding, all mosquito breeding sources near where the bird was collected will be inspected and treated, if necessary. Additional mosquito traps will be deployed in the area and trap results will be used to determine mosquito population densities and species. If an adequate number of viable mosquitoes are collected, samples will be sent to a State laboratory to determine if they are infected with the West Nile Virus.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans from the bite of a mosquito infected with this virus. Mosquitoes acquire WNV when feeding on infected wild birds. Fortunately, in humans, WNV usually causes no symptoms or a mild illness. Rarely, WNV can cause severe illness and death.

The public is advised to take the following precautions to minimize exposure to West Nile Virus:

1. Eliminate standing water from their property to reduce mosquito breeding, including standing water in any containers such as buckets, barrels, old tires, boats, ornamental ponds, and neglected swimming pools.
2. Make sure exterior doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Screens should be replaced if they are torn or have holes.

3. Limit outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.
4. When outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
5. Apply insect repellents containing DEET, picaradin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, according to label instructions.
6. Contact your local Vector Control agency if you see potential sources of standing water near where you live, find any dead birds or notice mosquitoes in or around your home.

The West Nile Virus also affects horses. For information about the West Nile Virus infection in horses and preventative measures, horse owners should contact their veterinarian. Water troughs, barrels, and other similar water containers for horses provide excellent mosquito breeding sources. If possible, water in these containers should be drained and replaced on a weekly basis. If water cannot be drained, mosquito fish can be used to control mosquito breeding.

To report potential mosquito-breeding sources within the City of Moorpark created from improperly maintained swimming pools and other similar water impoundments located on private property; the public is encouraged to call (805) 517-6267 or outside out the City of Moorpark but within Ventura County (805) 658-4310.

Mosquito-eating fish are available from the City of Moorpark at no charge to residents for use in ornamental ponds and similar water features. To order fish, the public should call (805) 517-6267 or outside out the City of Moorpark but within Ventura County (805) 662-6582.

To assist in WNV surveillance efforts, the public is encouraged to report any wild birds that have died recently within California to the State Department of Public Health at (877)WNV-Bird or (877)968-2473). More information on mosquitoes and WNV can be found on the following City, County and State websites:

www.ci.moorpark.ca.us

www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/programs/vector_control/west_nile_index.htm

<http://westnile.ca.gov>

