

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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Continuous Detection of West Nile Virus in Mosquitoes and Sentinel Chickens in the West Valley

September 3rd, 2009 – Two more mosquito samples and two more sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus, bringing this year's total to 33 positive mosquito samples, 8 dead birds, and 3 sentinel chickens.

The latest two West Nile virus positive mosquito samples were collected in the City of Ontario at the following two locations: Carlos Avenue at Mission Boulevard, and the 800 block of West Bonnie Brae Court. Both locations have reported West Nile virus infected mosquitoes in prior weeks. Based on the preliminary in-house screening test, one sentinel chicken housed in a coop located near Riverside Drive and Haven Avenue in Ontario, and the other housed in Prado Basin in Chino have developed antibody against West Nile virus infection. It was the second sentinel chicken that tested positive for West Nile virus infection at the coop located near Riverside Drive and Haven Avenue. Blood samples from these two chickens have been submitted to the state laboratory in Richmond for further evaluation.

There have been sharp increases in reported West Nile virus infection statewide in humans, dead birds, mosquitoes and sentinel chickens this week.

The recent wild fires at multiple locations in southern California have disrupted the lives of many families and individuals. The evening temperatures remain high which favors the host seeking behavior of mosquitoes and the propagation of West Nile virus in mosquitoes as well as in susceptible wild birds (such as crows, sparrows, finches, etc). We strongly urge the public to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

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 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 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.

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