

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Press Release:
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2 More Mosquito Samples, 3 Birds Positive for West Nile virus: Personal Protective Measures Urged for All Residents

Aug 24 – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation That 2 more mosquito samples and 3 dead birds were positive for West Nile virus. The birds and mosquito samples were collected from Rancho Cucamonga and Chino, on August 13th and 20th respectively.

The District also has preliminary results that a chicken from Ontario is also positive for the virus.

This comes on the heels of a report from the San Bernardino County Department of Health that a 24 year old woman has been hospitalized from the virus infection. California and the nation is experiencing the worst outbreak of West Nile virus since 1999. States like Texas are reporting hundreds of human infections and the numbers of positive mosquito samples are growing at an alarming rate.

Brian Reisinger, B.S., Community Outreach Coordinator said, "We urge our residents to take this threat seriously. This current epidemic and the human cases should show all that EVERYONE is at risk of contracting this disease. If your nine or ninety, you need to stay vigilant, wear a repellent at dusk and dawn when outdoors, and practice good mosquito management around the home. This disease can affect anyone."

The District reminds residents to dump standing water (birdbaths, dog dishes, trash cans, flowerpots, etc.), make sure door and window screens are in good repair, and to use an effective repellent when outdoors at dusk and dawn. Centers for Disease Control recommends using a repellent containing Picaridin, Deet, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535. Repellents are available at drugstores, camping supply stores, or online. Residents are also encouraged to Report green pools, standing water, or mosquito problems at 909-635-0307 or online at www.wvmvcd.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.

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