



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Great Horned Owl Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Lancaster, CA

West Nile virus is endemic in the Antelope Valley and the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District continues to urge residents to take precautions against mosquito bites!

Lancaster, CA, July 20th, 2022: A Great Horned Owl tested positive for West Nile virus near 30th Street East and Avenue H. “The owl was alive but ill when it was picked up by a veterinarian and taken to the Ojai Raptor Center for care” states Karen Mellor, District Entomologist at Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. The owl is reportedly recovering at the Raptor Center. This is the second indication of West Nile virus in the Antelope Valley for the 2022 season.

Hot weather is ideal to breed mosquitoes quickly. Stagnant water turns green more quickly and mosquitoes can go from egg to adult in just 5 days. Mosquito control is a shared responsibility of the property owner and the District. If both parties do their part to get rid of or treat standing water, the entire community will benefit from less mosquitoes and less chances of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus.

AVMVCD personnel will continue to conduct intensive searches of the area surrounding this WNV detection as well as throughout the entire District to keep mosquito populations low and reduce the chances of residents getting ill. This includes following up with residents who have been identified as having unmaintained swimming pools.

People bitten by an infected mosquito may develop West Nile fever and experience flu-like symptoms that can include fever, body aches, skin rash, and fatigue. In some people, West Nile fever can develop into a more serious form of the disease and can even be fatal.

The District urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Check property for standing water and get rid of it
- When mosquitoes are active, use EPA registered insect repellents that contain one of these main ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535 according to label instructions
- If weather permits, wear loose fitting clothes that cover as much skin as possible
- Make sure your screens on windows and doors are in good repair to avoid mosquitoes in the home
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report daytime biting mosquitoes to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917 or www.avmosquito.org/submit-a-tip
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information visit our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AVMosquito.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).

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