



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
42624 6<sup>th</sup> St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942-2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

For Immediate Release

**August 10, 2020**

**Contact:**

Brenna Bates-Grubb-Community Outreach Specialist

Karen Mellor-Entomologist

### **Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Palmdale, 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:** Mosquitoes collected from a mosquito trap in Palmdale tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The trap was near 25<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue R-8. "Additional West Nile positive mosquito samples are another important reminder that West Nile Virus is active in the Antelope Valley and that residents need to be vigilant about taking personal protective measures," said District Manager Cei Kratz.

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. The District wants to remind the community that 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 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.

The District monitors pools to ensure they are either clean and maintained or completely dry. Reducing these major mosquito breeding sources means reducing the mosquito population. “This process remains a vital part of our mosquito control efforts, especially now with an additional detection of West Nile virus this 2020 season,” said Brenna Bates-Grubb, Community Outreach Specialist for the AVMVCD. “It makes the need for residents to do their part that much more urgent.”

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.

The District also 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
- 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 stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://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](http://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).