



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

For Immediate Release

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First mosquitoes of 2022 test 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, June 13, 2022: Mosquitoes collected from a mosquito trap in Lancaster tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The trap was placed near 40th Street East and Avenue J-8. "These positive mosquito samples are a good reminder that West Nile Virus is active in the Antelope Valley and that residents need to be vigilant about personal mosquito control measures," said District Manager Leann Verdick.

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.

The District monitors pools to ensure they are either clean and maintained or completely dry. The 2022 aerial flyover was conducted during the second week of June and residents will start receiving pool notices soon. “This process of identifying unmaintained swimming pools is especially important with the first detection of West Nile virus this 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.” Please keep in mind that this monitoring system is not flawless. If you receive a pool notice in error, please respond according to the instructions on the notice or visit www.avmosquito.org/clean-pools-healthy-communities/ for more information. Reducing these major mosquito breeding sources means reducing the mosquito population.

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 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

- 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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