



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 9, 2012

FIRST IN 2012: WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTED MOSQUITOES FOUND IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY.

INDIO, CA, APRIL 9, 2012: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation from the Center for Vectorborne Diseases (UC Davis) of its first West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample in the Coachella Valley. The mosquito sample was taken from a mosquito trap located in the Oasis area of the lower valley near 81st Avenue and the 86 Expressway. District staff will intensify mosquito surveillance, larviciding, and public awareness in these areas, in an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes.

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WNV was first detected in 2003 in the Coachella Valley and since then has caused two human deaths, 16 non-fatal human cases, and the District has detected 392 positive mosquito samples.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito that is capable of transmitting the virus. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most humans who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, young children, the elderly or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing more severe symptoms when infected. WNV causes illness and death every year, however many cases are never tested and confirmed by physicians.

Residents can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by following the 3 D's of WNV prevention:

1. Dump/Drain

Eliminate standing water because that's where mosquitoes breed

2. Dusk/Dawn

Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes most active

3. Defend

Apply insect repellents with EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin and wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Utilize properly fitted and well maintained screens on windows and doors around your home.

Please contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, and report neglected pools or standing water breeding mosquitoes. You can visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests.

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