



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ADDITIONAL HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION CONFIRMED IN PALM SPRINGS

District to intensify mosquito trapping and searches for mosquito breeding sites in area.

INDIO, CA, OCTOBER 18, 2013: The Riverside County Department of Public Health confirmed that a Palm Springs resident has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the Coachella Valley's third human case of WNV infection this year. Last month, two Valley residents tested positive for WNV – one from Palm Springs and the other from the Thermal area. For information regarding human cases, please contact the Riverside County Department of Public Health at (951) 358-5107.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District increased surveillance and control efforts in Palm Springs neighborhoods earlier this summer when several mosquito samples and a human case were found positive for the virus. The increased surveillance has continued in the areas where WNV transmission was found.

“Following stepped up control efforts last month, the District is finding fewer mosquitoes in our Palm Springs traps and the ones we have found all tested negative for the virus,” says Gregory S. White, PhD, District Vector Ecologist. “The newly reported human case is just outside the area where we were seeing WNV activity this summer, so we will expand our stepped up surveillance and take the necessary steps to help prevent further infection of Valley residents.”

WNV is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most individuals infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have mild symptoms, such as

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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. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

So far in the Coachella Valley this year we had three human cases, 43 mosquito samples and 23 sentinel chickens test positive for WNV. Last year at this time, three human cases, 113 mosquito samples, and 50 sentinel chickens tested positive for WNV. Sentinel chicken flocks are stationed throughout the Coachella Valley for detection of WNV, Saint Louis encephalitis (SLE), and western equine encephalitis (WEE). For the latest statewide statistics for WNV activity, please visit <http://westnile.ca.gov>.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites:

- **Apply Insect Repellent.** Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under three years of age.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours.** Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities during that time.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites.** Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places for mosquitoes to breed by draining/discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly.
- **Install or Repair Screens.** Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 or (888) 343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, report neglected pools or standing water where mosquitoes breed, and report dead birds. Visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests.

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