



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MORE MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUS ACTIVITY DETECTED IN EAST VALLEY

District to conduct aerial applications targeting mosquitoes in Mecca and the North Shore

INDIO, CA, JULY 18, 2018: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District detected West Nile virus (WNV) activity for the first time in Mecca and St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) activity for the first time in the North Shore in 2018.

In Mecca, mosquitoes collected from a trap near Grant Street and Avenue 71 tested positive for both WNV and SLEV. Mosquitoes collected from an additional trap in Mecca near Johnson Street and Avenue 70 tested positive for SLEV. In the North Shore, mosquitoes collected from a trap near Cleveland Street and Avenue 72 tested positive for SLEV.

This brings the total number of mosquitoes infected with WNV to nine and the total number of mosquitoes infected with SLEV to eight for 2018. Last year at this time the District had detected 68 WNV-positive mosquito samples and no SLEV-positive mosquito samples. The tests were conducted at the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District laboratory. In an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes, interrupt virus transmission, and protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases, District staff will conduct adult mosquito control treatments by helicopter in Mecca and the North Shore where the virus activity was detected.

The treatment area will be bordered by the Salton Sea to the south, Hayes Street to the east, Buchanan Street to the west, Avenue 69 to the north, and excluding organic properties and fish farms. Applications are scheduled Saturday through Monday, July 21-23, between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the following morning, weather permitting. Aerial route maps and additional information about the applications, including any revised application dates are available at www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm.

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With the recent rainfall in the Coachella Valley, the District urges Valley residents and visitors to reduce mosquito breeding around the home by draining water that may have collected in containers in their yards.

WNV and SLEV are transmitted to people via the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are infected when they feed on birds carrying the virus. Most individuals infected with WNV or SLEV will not experience any illness. Others will have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, and body aches.

In severe cases, people will need to be hospitalized, and in rare cases the disease can be fatal. Young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing severe symptoms when infected. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider. The best way to prevent getting infected is to prevent mosquito bites.

All control products used by the District are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of controlling mosquitoes and protecting public health. The products are applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians. Although the District's mosquito control products pose low risk, some people may prefer to avoid exposure by staying inside or away from the area during and for 30 minutes following the application. Community commitment to removing standing water sources both inside and outside the home is critical to controlling mosquitoes in the Coachella Valley.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Avoid going outside in the hours around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis viruses are most active.
- Wear EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes when mosquitoes are active.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Prevent mosquitoes around your home:

- Inspect yards for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water.
- Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren't holding water and debris.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly.
- Check and clean any new potted plant containers that you bring home because they may have eggs. Some mosquito eggs can remain viable in dry areas for months.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, and report neglected pools or standing water where mosquitoes breed. Dead birds should be reported to the Californian Department of Public Health at (877) 968-2473 or online at http://westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php. Visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests. For the latest statewide statistics for WNV activity, please visit <http://westnile.ca.gov>.