



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 22, 2018

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN INDIAN WELLS AND PALM DESERT

District to start truck-mounted ULV to bring down mosquito populations and virus circulation

INDIO, CA, JUNE 22, 2018: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected more infected mosquitoes with West Nile virus (WNV). Two samples of mosquitoes tested positive yesterday; one sample of mosquitoes was collected from a trap in Indian Wells near Fairway Drive and Cook Street and the other sample was collected from a trap in Palm Desert near Portola Avenue and Shadow Mountain Drive.

These latest detections of virus activity come after the District reported the first West Nile virus activity of the year earlier this week and brings the total number of WNV-positive samples to four for 2018 in the Coachella Valley. In an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes, interrupt virus transmission, and protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases, District staff will post disease notification signs in the communities located near the two new trap locations, continue intensified mosquito surveillance with an increase in traps and inspections for mosquito breeding sites, carry out larval and adult control as necessary in the surrounding area, and apply barrier treatments around the trap in Palm Desert.

In addition, the District will start truck-mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) applications in residential areas where the mosquitoes were trapped between Highway 111, Portola Avenue, Rancho Palermas Drive, and Vintage Drive. Applications are scheduled Saturday through Monday, June 23-25 between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., weather permitting. Route maps and additional information about the applications are available at www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm.

“When the temperatures are high like they are right now, many of us are out in the early morning and evening to get some fresh air when temperatures are cooler,” said Jill Oviatt,

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Public Information Manager at the District. “That’s exactly when these virus-carrying mosquitoes are out and looking for someone to bite, so it is important that people protect themselves by covering up with long sleeves and pants and applying repellent on exposed skin.”

WNV is 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 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.

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 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.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Avoid going outside in the hours around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus 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 most active.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

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>.

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