



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
42624 6<sup>th</sup> St. East  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942 – 2917  
[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**July 31, 2018**

**Contact:**

Cei Kratz – District Manager  
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

### **First Sign of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley for 2018**

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was notified that a dead bird has tested positive for West Nile Virus. The dead Mockingbird was picked up by Los Angeles County Veterinarian personnel near 20<sup>th</sup> St. West and Lancaster Blvd on 7/13/18 and samples were submitted to UC Davis for testing.

“This is the first sign that West Nile Virus is active again in the Antelope Valley,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “WNV is endemic in the area and resurfaces at different times each year. August and September are typically the peak months for virus transmission.”

Recent mosquito trapping has identified a few areas of unusually high numbers of mosquitoes. So far the AVMVCD has submitted 93 mosquito samples for testing and none of them have shown any signs of virus. District personnel are conducting intensive searches of those areas, including door to door pool inspections in order to identify and treat any potential mosquito sources.

The District also 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
- Use CDC recommended insect repellents when outside during mosquito activity (DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535)
- Make sure your screen on windows and doors are in good repair

- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

As of 7/27/18 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 167 dead birds, 480 mosquito samples, 11 sentinel chickens, and 12 humans have tested positive for WNV in California. At this time last year, the virus had been detected in 116 dead birds, 1,125 mosquito samples, 34 sentinel chickens, as well as 6 human cases in California.

The AVMVCD is also asking for the public's help in tracking down any occurrences of the invasive mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) in the Antelope Valley. These mosquitoes are able to transmit diseases like Zika virus and Dengue fever and have already been found in other areas of Southern California and the Central Valley – as close as the San Fernando Valley. The District urges residents to report mosquitoes that bite during the day, so they can do follow up surveillance and find possible infestations.

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).