



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

43-420 Trader Place • Indio, CA 92201 • (760) 342-8287 • Fax (760) 342-8110

E-mail: CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org • Website: www.cvmvcd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Jill Oviatt August 7, 2015

Public Information Manager

(760) 342-8287 or (760) 289-9298

Email: joviatt@cvmvcd.org

FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY THIS YEAR INDIO, CA, AUGUST 7, 2015:

The Riverside County Department of Public Health confirmed that a Thermal resident tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the Coachella Valley's first human case of WNV infection this year, bringing the total number of human cases in Riverside County to three. For further information regarding human cases, please contact the Riverside County Department of Public Health at (951) 358-5107.

In response, the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will be in the Thermal area to set additional traps, increase larval surveillance to identify mosquito breeding sources, and carry out larval and adult control as necessary in an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus.

“We have been detecting West Nile virus in mosquitoes since April in the Valley and working hard ever since to reduce transmission of the virus,” said Rodney Chamberlain, Lead Supervisor for Operations at the District. “We ask people to please use repellent and cover up from early evening to early morning when mosquitoes that carry the virus frequently bite, as we continue our control efforts to protect communities.”

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. The risk of serious illness to most people is low. One in five will experience mild symptoms, such as fever, headache, and body aches. Less than one percent of individuals will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis.

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.

Residents are encouraged to be careful not to create standing water sources in their yards or irrigation runoff into street drains, and to be on the lookout for standing water sources and report them to the District. Residents are also encouraged to avoid mosquito bites by following simple personal protection measures.

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.

As of August 7, West Nile virus has been found in 36 counties in California, with 1,058 samples of mosquitoes testing positive for the virus, and 18 confirmed human cases in the state. The Coachella Valley has 80 WNV- and six Saint Louis encephalitis virus-positive mosquito samples. 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. For the latest statewide statistics for WNV activity, please visit <http://westnile.ca.gov>.

~END