



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Aerial spraying planned in some Coachella Valley areas to combat mosquito spread

Due to the elevated activity of Saint Louis encephalitis virus (SLE) and West Nile virus (WNV) in the east Valley, the District has scheduled ultralow volume (ULV) aerial applications to lower the mosquito abundance and reduce the risk of disease transmission to humans by infected adult mosquitoes.

The first aerial ULV will take place Thursday, August 20 between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. in the east Valley from Johnson Street to Colfax Street just south of Avenue 71, and a second aerial application is scheduled Wednesday, August 26, weather permitting.

In the last week, SLE was detected in eight mosquito samples southeast of Mecca, bringing the total number of SLE-positive mosquito samples in the Coachella Valley to 14 this year. Five mosquito samples also tested positive for WNV last week in Indian Wells, Palm Desert, and La Quinta, bringing the total number of WNV-positive mosquito samples to 86 this year.

Application routes will be posted at <http://www.cvmvcd.org/adulticiding.htm>. All products used are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 away from the area for 30 minutes following the application. Signs will be posted along the ULV routes informing residents of the control efforts.

In addition, District staff are intensifying mosquito surveillance, searching out breeding sites, and conducting larval control where appropriate.

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

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 14, West Nile virus has been found in 38 counties in California, with 1,577 samples of mosquitoes testing positive for the virus, and 36 confirmed human cases in the state. The Coachella Valley has one confirmed human case of WNV.

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 <http://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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