



# Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 22, 2011

### **VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF FIRST WNV HUMAN CASE FROM THE COACHELLA VALLEY**

**INDIO, CA, NOVEMBER 22, 2011:** The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation, from the Riverside Department of Public Health, of a West Nile virus (WNV) positive human case from Cathedral City. This is the first WNV human case documented in the Coachella Valley in 2011. The last confirmed WNV human case in the Coachella Valley occurred in 2008. District staff will continue mosquito and WNV surveillance, larviciding, and public awareness in these areas, in an effort to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes. Late fall and winter month weather and other environmental conditions greatly reduce local mosquito populations and the risk of WNV transmission in the Coachella Valley.

This year there have been 43 confirmed WNV positive mosquito samples and 31 sentinel chickens positive for WNV in the Coachella Valley. In 2010, the District had 69 confirmed WNV positive mosquito samples and 38 sentinel chickens positive for WNV across the valley, by this point in the season.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Not all species of mosquitoes are capable of transmitting the virus. Of those that can transmit the virus only a small percentage are actually infected with the virus. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, young children, the elderly or individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing more severe symptoms when infected. WNV causes illness and death every year, however many cases are never tested and confirmed by physicians.

The District continues its extensive surveillance, prevention, and treatment programs throughout the Coachella Valley and urges residents to help reduce mosquito breeding sources by inspecting their backyards and neighborhoods for standing water sources at least once a week.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Report swimming pools and ornamental ponds that are not being maintained. Keep ornamental ponds and neglected pools free of excess vegetation.
- Contact the District for free mosquitofish to place in your ornamental pools, neglected pools or any other container with standing water that can potentially breed mosquitoes
- Contact the District if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, and report neglected pools or standing water. You can visit us online at [www.cvmvcd.org](http://www.cvmvcd.org) to obtain more information and submit service requests.

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