



## Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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### PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
August 24, 2011

### **VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THREE MORE WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITO SAMPLES**

**INDIO, CA, AUGUST 24, 2011:** The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation from the Center for Vectorborne Diseases (UC Davis) of three additional West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples in the Coachella Valley. Up to date this year there have been 6 confirmed WNV positive mosquito samples in the Coachella Valley. The mosquito samples were taken from traps located in Cathedral City (between Plumley Road/Gerald Ford Road and Date Palm Drive/Converse Road) and the City of Palm Desert (east of Portola Avenue and north of Reserve Drive). District staff will continue its intensified mosquito surveillance, larviciding, and public awareness in these areas in an effort to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes. At this time the District will not be scheduling any ultra low volume (ULV) ground application in the City of Palm Desert, and will be re-evaluating ULV control efforts in Cathedral City.

In 2010, the District had 51 confirmed WNV positive mosquito samples from across the valley by this point in the season.

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WNV was first detected in 2003 in the Coachella Valley. In 2004, a resurgence of the virus resulted in 7 non-fatal human cases, 75 positive mosquito samples and 6 dead birds. Since 2005 in the Coachella Valley, WNV has caused 3 human deaths, 11 non-fatal human cases and the District has detected 370 positive mosquito samples.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through an infected mosquito bite. 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.

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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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