



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
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**VECTOR CONTROL ANNOUNCES FIRST DEAD BIRD POSITIVE FOR
WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE IN THE VALLEY**

INDIO, CA, OCTOBER 6, 2010: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of the first West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird. The bird, a northern mockingbird, was found on September 23rd in the Palm Springs area. There will be increase in the District's adult mosquito surveillance and control measures in this area. The District still District remains in Emergency Planning mode. Please visit the District website for additional information and the CVMVCD Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Emergency Response Plan. Currently, the Districts has had 66 mosquito samples, 33 sentinel chickens, and 1 dead bird test positive for WNV.

To date, in California, there have been 62 human cases with one fatality, 1,244 positive mosquito samples, 385 dead birds, and 241 sentinel chickens that have tested positive for WNV.

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WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems are more susceptible to WNV.

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.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency 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, to report neglected pools or standing water. Service requests can also be submitted online at www.cvmvcd.org.

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