



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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MORE WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITOES CONFIRMED IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

INDIO, CA, OCTOBER 1, 2009: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation from UC Davis of 2 more West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples in the Coachella Valley. The samples were collected on September 29, from mosquito traps located south of Mecca near the following locations: Grant and Avenue 72 and near Jessup Ranch and Avenue 81. Today's report brings the total West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples to 13 for the year in the Coachella Valley. According to the Riverside County Health Department, there are NO human cases of West Nile virus in the Coachella Valley up to date.

Due to the WNV activity in these areas the District will be intensifying their surveillance and control measures to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus.

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West Nile virus 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. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, WNV can be severe in young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems. To get more information on WNV you can visit the California West Nile Virus website at <http://westnile.ca.gov>

The District will continue 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 the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a public health agency, located in Indio, at 43-420 Trader Place. To report mosquito problems, neglected pools, standing water, or to request FREE mosquitofish call the District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399. You can also visit the District, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30 pm. For your convenience service requests can also be submitted online at www.cvmvcd.org .

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