



Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

43-420 Trader Place, Indio, CA 92201

(760) 342-8287 www.cvmosquito.org

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Contact:

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes in Palm Springs

This is the first sample from the west valley positive for virus in 2023.

Coachella Valley, CA: Mosquitoes collected in Palm Springs tested positive for [West Nile Virus](#) (WNV) near Patencio Road and Hermosa Place. This is the first sample from the valley to test positive for WNV in 2023 although regular detections of St. Louis encephalitis virus have been found in the east valley beginning in June.

The Coachella Valley [Mosquito and Vector Control District](#) is increasing mosquito control technicians in these areas and will carry out mosquito control [treatments](#) as needed to reduce the number of mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus.

"West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States, detections like this should put us all on alert to wear repellent," said Tammy Gordon, Public Information Manager for the District. "At least thirty percent of an active ingredient like DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus is best. Do not use essential oils as mosquito repellent."

No human cases of mosquito-borne illness have been reported in the Coachella Valley however, one human case has been reported by the [state](#) this year.

About West Nile Virus

WNV spread when a female mosquito bites an infected bird. The mosquito then can become a carrier and transmit the virus to people. Most infected people will have no [symptoms](#). Others will develop fever, headaches, and body aches; hospitalization is required in some cases, and in rare cases, death occurs. People with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Don't go outside around dawn and dusk when these mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear insect repellent. [EPA registered ingredients](#) such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 (as directed on the product label).
- Cover up. Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when mosquitoes are most active.
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Prevent mosquitoes around your home:

- Check lawn drains for water and debris. Clean drains regularly.
- Inspect yards for standing water sources. Drain water that collects under potted plants, bird baths, tires, and any other water holding containers.
- Clean and scrub pet dishes and water features weekly.

-END-



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- Swimming pools, ponds, and fountains require working pumps and regular maintenance.