



## Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

43-420 Trader Place, Indio, CA 92201

(760) 342-8287 [www.cvmosquito.org](http://www.cvmosquito.org)

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### **Mosquitoes Test Positive for Mosquito-Borne Disease in Mecca**

St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) has been detected in a mosquito sample near Lincoln Street and 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Mecca. This is the first detection of SLEV in 2020 for Mecca. So far this year, there have been 71 SLEV positive mosquito samples detected in the Coachella Valley. As of today, no human cases of SLEV have been reported in the Coachella Valley.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District staff are posting disease notification signs in communities located near the trap and will increase inspections for mosquito breeding sites. Technicians will also carry out mosquito control treatments as necessary in an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus.

"It's not worth the risk, cover up and wear insect repellent. Especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active." said Tammy Gordon, Public Information Officer for the District. "Mosquito bites are a real threat. Do everything you can to not get bit."

SLEV is a potentially serious illness. People can get sick from the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are infected when they feed on birds infected with the virus. Most infected people will have no symptoms, while others develop fever, headaches, and body aches; hospitalization is required in some cases, and in rare cases death occurs. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Maps of virus activity and application details at [www.cvmosquito.org](http://www.cvmosquito.org).

#### **Prevent mosquito bites:**

- Don't go outside around dawn and dusk when 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, long pants, socks and shoes 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, ornamental ponds, and fountains require working pumps and regular maintenance.