



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First West Nile Virus Detections of the Year Confirms Start of Mosquito Virus Season

Community Action Remains Essential as Residents Play a Critical Role in Reducing Mosquito Breeding and Preventing the Spread of West Nile Virus

Coachella Valley, CA: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has confirmed the first detections of West Nile virus (WNV) in the Coachella Valley for the 2026 mosquito season. The positive WNV samples were collected from a routine collection site in the community of North Shore near the intersection of Avenue 72 and Cleveland Street.

While no human cases have been reported at this time, the detection serves as an important reminder that West Nile virus activity is endemic in the region and that preventive action is critical during the warmer months when mosquito activity increases.

“Early detection allows us to respond quickly and strategically to help reduce the risk of virus transmission,” said Jeremy Wittie, General Manager for the District. “Our surveillance and control programs are active year-round, but community participation remains one of the most important tools in preventing mosquito breeding and protecting public health.”

In response to the detections, District staff have increased surveillance and mosquito control efforts in the affected area, including targeted larval treatments, adult mosquito monitoring, and public outreach activities.

The District urges all residents to take the following precautions to help reduce mosquito populations and prevent bites:

- Dump and drain standing water around homes and properties, including flowerpots, buckets, tires, fountains, and pet bowls.
- Ensure swimming pools and spas are properly maintained.
- Wear insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients when outdoors.
- Wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Report neglected pools or significant mosquito activity to the District.

Mosquitoes can develop in as little as a bottle cap of water, making regular property inspections an important part of community-wide prevention efforts.

The District conducts ongoing mosquito surveillance, testing, and control operations throughout the Coachella Valley using science-based and environmentally responsible practices designed to reduce disease risk while protecting the community.

Residents experiencing mosquito issues or seeking prevention information are encouraged to contact the District at 760-342-8287 or visit cvmosquito.org.

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About West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) spreads to people through the bite of an infected female mosquito that acquired the virus from an infected bird. Although most people infected with the virus experience mild or no symptoms, some individuals may develop serious illness. Adults over the age of 50 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at greater risk for severe complications.

About Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is a public health agency serving the Coachella Valley since 1928. The Agency's mission is to protect public health with our communities through proven scientific, educational, and sustainable vector control programs.