



## Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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### **Mosquito Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Rancho Mirage**

**Coachella Valley, CA:** Six more samples of mosquitoes from routine collection sites and from extra surveillance traps have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) this week. This brings the total of WNV-positive samples to 97 for 2024. One positive sample came from Rancho Mirage near the intersection of Bob Hope Drive and Palm Crest Drive. The additional positive samples came from traps in Thermal.

Many areas in the Coachella Valley are showing concentrations of WNV activity. The District's Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Emergency Response Plan helps target control applications where risk of WNV transmission is greatest. Using the Plan as a guide, the District will evaluate the use of adult mosquito control within urban areas in the Coachella Valley.

"Residents can do their part, and help their neighbors, by dumping and draining any standing water around their homes. No water, no mosquitoes. Mosquito control is a community effort," emphasized Salvador Becerra, Field Supervisor for the District.

We urge residents to be proactive against mosquitoes by wearing EPA-registered insect repellent containing at least thirty percent of an active ingredient like DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535, not essential oils. Information about the District's response efforts and tips on how to protect against mosquitoes can be found on the District's [website](#).

#### **Prevent mosquito bites and prevent mosquitoes around your home:**

- 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).
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Check lawn drains for water and debris. Clean drains regularly.
- Prevent irrigation run-off to street-side catch basins
- 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.
- Swimming pools, ponds, and fountains require working pumps and regular maintenance.

**About West Nile Virus:** WNV spreads when a female mosquito bites an infected bird. The mosquito then can become a carrier and transmit the virus to people.

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