



**Antelope Valley Mosquito  
& Vector Control District**  
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[www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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**Contact:**

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### **Continued Activity of Two Mosquito-Borne Viruses in the Antelope Valley**

Lancaster, CA – Despite cooler temperatures the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected West Nile Virus as well as St. Louis Encephalitis in sentinel chickens and trapped mosquitoes. To date West Nile Virus (WNV) has been found in 24 sentinel chickens, 6 mosquito samples and 2 dead birds in the Antelope Valley. There have also been 7 human cases reported in the AV. Additionally two chickens have been infected with St. Louis encephalitis (SLE).

“SLE is similar to WNV and was displaced when WNV first arrived in the AV,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “The past couple of years it has been returning to the area, and we have seen more infections in our sentinel chickens.”

Since both viruses are mosquito-borne and have no cure, the District urges residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

The District gives the following advice:

- Use CDC approved insect repellents when outside during mosquito activity (DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535)
- Check property after each thunderstorm for standing water and get rid of it
- Make sure your screen on windows and doors are in good repair

- Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

As of 10/6/17 the California Department of Public Health has reported that 449 dead birds, 3,234 mosquito samples, 282 sentinel chickens, and 17 horses have tested positive for WNV in California. They have also reported 258 human cases and 12 fatalities.

The AVMVCD is also asking for the public's help in tracking down any occurrences of the invasive mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) in the Antelope Valley. These mosquitoes are able to transmit diseases like Zika virus and Dengue fever and have already been found in other areas of Southern California and the Central Valley – as close as the San Fernando Valley. The District urges residents to report mosquitoes that bite during the day, so they can do follow up surveillance and find possible infestations.

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at [www.avmosquito.org](http://www.avmosquito.org), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).