



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL 19 WEST
NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITO SAMPLES**

INDIO, CA, JULY 12, 2010: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation from UC Davis of 19 more West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples, bringing the total in the Coachella Valley to 32. In addition, 3 sentinel chickens positive for WNV were confirmed by UC Davis. The mosquito samples were taken from traps located south of Mecca, the North and West Shore areas. “Based on the current climate, estimated mosquito populations, virus activity in mosquitoes and chickens, dead bird reports and human cases (No human cases have been reported in the State) we are in the Emergency Planning mode – at Emergency Risk Rating 3.2 (Emergency Rating 2.6- 4.0)”, stated Scientific Operations Manager, Jeremy Wittie. Due to the Emergency Planning Mode, the District will be intensifying surveillance and control of mosquito larvae. The control of adult mosquitoes will be conducted when needed. Please visit the District website for additional information and the CVMVCD Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Emergency Response Plan. To date, in California, there have been 107 positive mosquito samples (5 Fresno

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County, 7 Imperial County, 20 Kern County, 4 Madera County, 4 Merced County, 2 Orange County, 32 Riverside County, 18 Sacramento County, 2 San Bernardino County, 2 San Joaquin County, 6 Santa Clara County, 2 Sutter County, and 3 Tulare County), 52 dead birds (2 Butte County, 7 Los Angeles County, 5 Madera County, 3 Merced County, 1 Orange County, 1 Placer County, 6 Sacramento County, 1 San Bernardino, 1 San Diego, 19 Santa Clara County, 3 Santa Cruz County, and 3 Stanislaus County), and 6 Sentinel Chickens (3 Imperial County and 3 Riverside County) that have tested positive for the WNV. No human cases of WNV have been reported this year.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems may experience mild to severe symptoms.

The District continues its extensive surveillance, prevention, and treatment programs throughout the Coachella Valley and urges residents to help reduce mosquito breeding sources by inspecting their backyards and neighborhoods for standing water sources at least once a week.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, to report neglected pools or standing water. Service requests can also be submitted online at www.cvmvcd.org.

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