



COACHELLA VALLEY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 6, 2019

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UNPRECEDENTED WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY PROMPTS DISTRICT TO EXPAND APPLICATIONS IN PALM SPRINGS AND INDIO

INDIO, CA, JUNE 6, 2019: Since May 30, 20 additional mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This brings the total number of samples positive for the virus to 57 this year, the highest ever recorded for this time of year in the Coachella Valley. The majority of infected mosquito samples tested this week were from Palm Springs (8), then Indio (5), Mecca (5), and Thermal (2). While WNV has not been detected in any new cities, the virus has been found in new areas of Palm Springs and Indio.

In an effort to reduce adult mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases they may transmit, the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District will continue to carry out applications to control adult mosquito populations. While there has been no virus activity detected in people this year, the District will stay vigilant by conducting truck-mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) applications in areas where infected mosquitoes were trapped to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to people. As of May 31, there are four California counties, including Riverside, that have reported WNV activity.

“We have never had this much virus activity at this point in the year and in so many locations throughout the valley,” says Jennifer Henke, Laboratory Manager. “That’s why it is so important for everyone to remain vigilant and prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. We don’t want anyone to get sick.”

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In addition to the operations already announced in the east valley, ULV applications are planned at the following locations and times:

Palm Springs

Route 1: The application area is within Mesquite Avenue, Gene Autry Trail, East Palm Canyon Drive, and Cerritos Drive.

Route 2: The application area is within Sunny Dunes Road, Vella Road, just south of Mesquite Avenue, and El Placer Road.

WHEN: Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 9-11, 2019. Applications are planned between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., weather permitting, but could take place anytime between 8:00 p.m. (the evening prior) and 8:00 a.m.

Indio

The application area is within Terra Lago Parkway, Harrison Street, Avenue 44, Aztec Street, and Golf Center Parkway, excluding agricultural areas and water bodies. The route will continue, north of Avenue 42 between Goodrich Street and Amberley Street.

WHEN: Saturday, Sunday and Monday, June 8-10, 2019. Applications are planned between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., weather permitting, but could take place anytime between 8:00 p.m. (the evening prior) and 8:00 a.m.

Please refer to the District's website for application routes and updated dates and times at <http://www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm>.

The District has placed additional traps and increased surveillance in search of standing water to help reduce mosquitoes and the risk of virus transmission. This time last year, no virus activity had been detected in the Coachella Valley.

Signs will be posted along the route informing residents of the control efforts. District staff is also reaching out to residents in those areas by way of schools, churches, municipalities, homeowner associations and community centers.

All control products used by the District are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of controlling mosquitoes and protecting public health. The products are applied according to label instructions by trained and certified technicians. Although mosquito control pesticides and the techniques used pose low risks, the District recommends that people who want to avoid exposure as a best practice, stay inside or away from the application area during and for 30 minutes following the application. For more information during treatment, please call (760) 541-2057. During regular office hours Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. the public may call (760) 342-8287.

The District is asking the public to do all they can to prevent mosquito breeding in their neighborhoods and to report increased mosquito activity.

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Prevent mosquito bites:

- Avoid going outside in the hours around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus are most active.
- Wear EPA registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and/or clothing (as directed on the product label).
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when mosquitoes are most active.
- Be sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Prevent mosquitoes around your home:

- Inspect yards for standing water sources and drain water that may have collected under potted plants, in bird baths, discarded tires, and any other items that could collect water.
- Check your rain gutters and lawn drains to make sure they aren't holding water and debris.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet watering dishes weekly.
- Check and clean any new potted plant containers that you bring home because they may have eggs. Some mosquito eggs can remain viable in dry areas for months.

Please contact the District at (760) 342-8287 to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, and report neglected pools or standing water where mosquitoes breed. Dead birds should be reported to the California Department of Public Health at (877) 968-2473 or online at http://westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php. Visit us online at www.cvmvcd.org to obtain more information and submit service requests. For the latest statewide statistics for WNV activity, please visit <http://westnile.ca.gov>.

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