



Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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(760) 342-8287 www.cvmosquito.org

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes in South La Quinta

Recent rains help facilitate desirable mosquito habitat.

Coachella Valley, CA: A sample of mosquitoes from a routine collection site in south La Quinta tested positive for [West Nile virus](#) (WNV) near Avenue 60 and Monroe for the first time this year. This is the 17th sample from the valley to test positive for virus in 2023.

No human cases of mosquito-borne illness have been reported by the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District however, 75 have been reported in the [state](#) this year. People over the age of 50 and individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of suffering severe symptoms of WNV.

"We are seeing more adult mosquitoes and more calls from people seeing mosquitoes. Not every mosquito is able to transmit disease," says Jennifer Henke, Laboratory Manager for the District. "Regardless, the best way to prevent disease is to apply mosquito repellent often."

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is increasing mosquito control technicians in these areas and will carry out mosquito control treatments as needed to reduce the number of mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus. Technicians have been using mosquitofish in a variety of ponds and unmaintained water features for ongoing mosquito control efforts.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- 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).
- Cover up. Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when mosquitoes are most active.
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Prevent mosquitoes around your home:

- Check lawn drains for water and debris. Clean drains regularly.
- 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 spread when a female mosquito bites an infected bird. The mosquito then can become a carrier and transmit the virus to people. Most infected people

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will have no [symptoms](#). Others will develop fever, headaches, and body aches; hospitalization is required in some cases, and in rare cases, death occurs. People with symptoms should contact their health care provider.