



## COACHELLA VALLEY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

📍 43-420 Trader Place, Indio, CA 92201 📞 (760) 342-8287 📠 (760) 342-8110  
🌐 [www.cvmvcd.org](http://www.cvmvcd.org) ✉ [CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org](mailto:CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org) 🌐 @cvmosquito 🐦 @CV\_mosquito

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# PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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#### CONTACTS:

Tammy Gordon  
Public Information Officer  
(760) 342-8287 or (760) 296-2905  
[tgordon@cvmvcd.org](mailto:tgordon@cvmvcd.org)

Jill Oviatt  
Public Information Manager  
(760) 342-8287 or (760) 289-9298  
[joviatt@cvmvcd.org](mailto:joviatt@cvmvcd.org)

### **MORE WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN COACHELLA AND INDIO**

*District to start truck-mounted ULV to reduce mosquito populations and virus circulation*

**INDIO, CA, MAY 14, 2019:** The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected more mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus (WNV). Eight additional samples of mosquitoes tested positive for the virus this week. Infected mosquitoes in Coachella were collected from traps near Harrison Street and Avenue 54 and near Shady Lane and Avenue 53. Infected mosquitoes in Indio were collected from traps located along Avenue 44 between Golf Center Parkway and Harrison Street.

In an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes, interrupt virus transmission, and protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases, the District will carry out truck-mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) applications in neighborhoods where the mosquitoes were trapped. In Coachella, the applications will be within the areas of Avenue 52, Tyler Street, Avenue 54, and Calle Empalme. In Indio, the truck-mounted applications will be within the areas of Terra Lago Parkway, Harrison Street, Avenue 44, Aztec Street, and Vista del Oro, excluding agricultural areas and water bodies. Three applications are scheduled Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 16-18 between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Applications dates and times may change due to weather. Route maps and application updates are available at [www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm](http://www.cvmvcd.org/controlactivities.htm).

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To ensure the maximum impact of the adult mosquito control operation, the District requests that residents in the applications areas remain inside while the trucks are going down their streets. Signs will be posted along the route informing residents of the control efforts. 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.

These latest detections of virus activity come after the District reported the first West Nile virus activity of the year last week and brings the total number of WNV-positive samples to 12 for 2019 in the Coachella Valley. District staff will continue intensified mosquito surveillance and control in the surrounding area.

“When the temperatures are high like they are right now, many of us are out in the early morning and evening to get some fresh air when temperatures are cooler,” said Jill Oviatt, Public Information Manager at the District. “That’s exactly when these virus-carrying mosquitoes are out and looking for someone to bite, so it is important that people protect themselves by covering up with long sleeves and pants and applying repellent on exposed skin.”

WNV is transmitted to people via the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are infected when they feed on birds carrying the virus. Most individuals infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. In severe cases, people will need to be hospitalized, and in rare cases the disease can be fatal. Young children, people over 50 years old, and individuals with lowered immune systems are at greater risk of experiencing severe symptoms when infected. Anyone with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Community commitment to removing standing water sources both inside and outside the home is critical to controlling mosquitoes in the Coachella Valley.

**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.

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- 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.

**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.

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 Californian Department of Public Health at (877) 968-2473 or online at [http://westnile.ca.gov/report\\_wnv.php](http://westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php). Visit us online at [www.cvmvcd.org](http://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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