

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

Monday, June 27, 2016



Contact:

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Mosquitoes Infected With West Nile Virus Continue to Spread in Orange County

Garden Grove, CA. Since the first indications in Orange County of West Nile virus on May 13, 2016, mosquito samples have tested positive in the following cities: Anaheim, Irvine, La Habra, La Palma, Orange, and Seal Beach. These findings indicate a more broad distribution of the virus earlier in the mosquito-breeding season than in the previous two epidemic years. In 2014, the virus was concentrated in the City of Santa Ana, and in 2015, the virus was found predominantly in the cities of Tustin and Orange during this period.

Metrological reports of significant El Nino related weather events for 2016 gave the District hope that underground storm drains, flood channels, ditches, gutters, and many other water conveyance systems would be flushed of debris. However, these rain events did not occur. Debris found in these systems impedes the flow of water and creates mosquito-breeding habitat. In addition to water conveyance systems lacking proper flushing, aerial surveillance photography conducted in April revealed thousands of previously unknown out-of-service residential swimming pools. Both of these factors contribute to higher mosquito populations, and the transmission of West Nile virus. Recent heat waves shorten the amount of time it takes for mosquitoes to progress from egg to adult, and also encourage residents to spend more time outdoors during the early evening hours when mosquitoes are actively looking for a blood meal. As the temperature increases again, residents are reminded to apply mosquito repellent when outdoors, ensure window and door screens are in good repair, and dump and drain any standing water on their property.

In areas where West Nile virus has been detected, District staff are posting signs and distributing flyers alerting residents to the detection of the virus, and preventative measures they can take to prevent becoming infected. Additional staff has been allocated to canvass these areas to look for mosquito breeding sources, expand public education, and work with city officials to correct infrastructure issues.

As June 26 - July 2 has been declared National Mosquito Control Awareness Week by the American Mosquito Control Association, now is an ideal time to remind individuals about the increased threat of mosquito-borne disease. This week is intended to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives and the important service provided by mosquito control workers throughout the United States and worldwide.

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The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District makes the following recommendations to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Eliminate any standing water around your home or office.
- Make sure all window and door screens on your house are in good repair.
- Wear a repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR 3535.
- Contact the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to report dead birds or neglected pools.

(714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421 or www.ocvcd.org

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