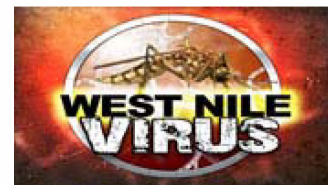




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West Nile Virus Update – National

West Nile Virus (WNV) activity across the nation has been very high this summer and fall. As of October 23, there have been 4,725 human cases of WNV (including 219 fatalities) reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Approximately 51% of the human cases in the United States were classified as neuroinvasive disease (i.e. meningitis or encephalitis). Nearly 70% of human cases nationwide have been reported from the states of Texas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Illinois, South Dakota, Michigan and Oklahoma.



West Nile Virus Update – California and San Bernardino County

As of October 26, California had 339 human cases of WNV, 17 of which are in San Bernardino County. There has been one fatality so far this year from WNV in San Bernardino County. Chickens from sentinel flocks in Colton, Fontana, Needles, Rialto, Upland, and Yucaipa have tested positive for WNV. Samples of mosquitoes in Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Needles, Redlands, and San Bernardino have also tested positive for WNV.



Our Mosquito and Vector Control Program has been hard at work to prevent WNV disease in our county. So far this year, they have treated approximately 1,600 water sources that were breeding mosquitoes. They also conducted block surveys and visited over 1,000 residences in high-risk areas for WNV to inform residents about the risk of WNV, pass out educational materials, and identify water sources (such as green pools). The county Sheriff's Department has also partnered with us in our efforts to prevent WNV. During helicopter fly-overs, the Sheriff's Department identified over 300 properties as possible mosquito breeding grounds. The Mosquito and Vector Control Program then followed up with these properties to ensure that the water sources had been properly treated.

Our Health Education Program has focused heavily on distributing WNV prevention material throughout the county. We conducted presentations at senior centers in high-risk areas, as people over the age of 50 are more likely to become very sick or die if they become infected with WNV. We conducted mass mailings to libraries, senior centers, and other community-based groups. (See the article below for links to our brochures.) We also went to several elementary school assemblies to present on vector control, where we distributed free Hector the Vector Detector coloring books and pencils to 700 students.

How Can I Help Prevent West Nile Virus?

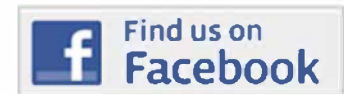
To aid in the prevention of WNV, it is very important that property owners remove all sources of stagnant water from their property. San Bernardino County residents with pools are urged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes will breed in stagnant water sources and green pools. Residents can play a role in preventing West Nile Virus from further spreading in our county by eliminating all sources of stagnant water.

[Click here](#) to download a brochure with more important facts on how to prevent WNV. If you're a senior, [Click here](#) to download a brochure with information on how to keep yourself safe from WNV.

You can report dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD, or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. For more information or to report a green pool or mosquito breeding source, contact the Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.



New Social Media Sites Launched



DEHS has launched Facebook and Twitter pages en Español! All of the content posted on the English-language social media sites will now be posted in Spanish too. The link for our Facebook page in Spanish is www.facebook.com/sbehsEsp. The link for our Twitter page in Spanish is <https://twitter.com/sbehsEsp>.

DEHS also recently created two YouTube channels. The link for our English-language channel is www.youtube.com/user/sbcdehs and the link for our Spanish-language channel is www.youtube.com/user/sbcdehsesp. Check out our new playlist called "Vector Control Videos" on our English-language channel.

Free Environmental Health Alerts

DEHS recently created a new email bulletin to notify operators and the general public about events or incidents of environmental health significance. Anyone can sign up to receive these email alerts for free. In an effort not to overload your email inbox, we will be using this email bulletin only as necessary. Examples of alerts you might receive from us include news about foodborne illness outbreaks, boil water notices, food safety guidance after an earthquake or other disaster, West Nile Virus surveillance updates, etc. As a courtesy, we have signed up Mosquito and Vector Control subscribers to receive these email alerts. You will receive a confirmation email that you have been subscribed to the new bulletin. If you do not wish to receive alerts in the future, please click on the "Manage Preferences" link in the confirmation email.



If you have coworkers, staff, friends or family members who would be interested in receiving environmental health alerts from DEHS, they can subscribe by [clicking here](#).

New Telephone Number for DEHS

We now have a new toll-free number for DEHS! It is 1-800-442-2283. You can reach all of our offices (Rancho Cucamonga, Hesperia, San Bernardino, and San Bernardino Mosquito & Vector Control) by calling our new number. This single number replaces all previous telephone numbers, which have now been inactivated. If you call an old number, you will only reach a message giving you our new 800 number.



*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Amanda Gaspard, Health Education Specialist,
at 800-442-2283 or Amanda.Gaspard@dph.sbcounty.gov.*

