

# Mosquito & Vector Control



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## Ticks Positive for Lyme Disease-Related Bacteria

The Division of Environmental Health Services' (DEHS) Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP) recently confirmed two adult western blacklegged (ticks collected on January 29, 2015) tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato, a bacterial organism that may cause Lyme disease in humans. The ticks were collected on a hiking trail about 4 miles north of Yucaipa along Highway 38. This marks the first positive indicator for the bacteria in San Bernardino County since 1991. The MVCP will continue to survey this and other areas to assess Lyme disease risk to San Bernardino County residents and visitors.



Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans (also referred to as the "bull's eye rash"). If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics.

Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, and making your yard less attractive to ticks by using simple landscaping techniques. You can learn more about these and other prevention tips by visiting the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov) or the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov).

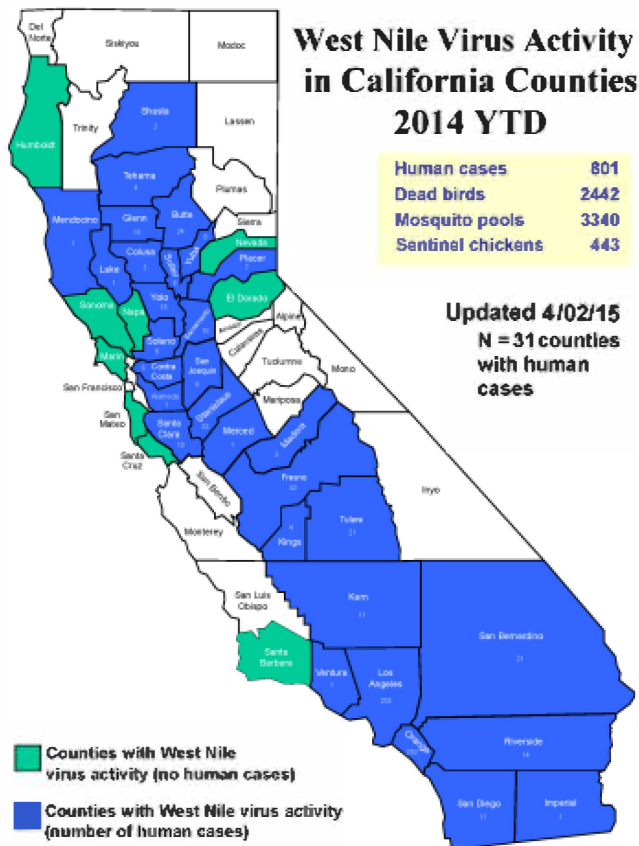
For more information on Lyme disease, please contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283, or visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs).

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## California's West Nile Virus Activity in 2014

In 2014, California recorded 801 cases of West Nile Virus (WNV), which was the second-highest number of human cases since the virus first invaded California in 2003. According to the CDPH, the level of WNV activity last year broke several records, including:

- 561 cases of West Nile neuroinvasive disease (WNND), the more serious neurological form of the disease, were detected.
- The number of fatal WNV cases, 31, exceeded all previous years.
- The proportion of mosquitoes infected with WNV was the highest level ever detected in California.



- The prevalence of WNV infection in tested dead birds, 60 percent, was the highest ever detected in California.

n 2014, San Bernardino County reported 21 human cases of WNV. This was low compared to neighboring Orange and Los Angeles Counties, who reported 263 and 253 human cases respectively.

#### How Can I Help Prevent West Nile Virus?

Mosquitoes breed in very large numbers in stagnant water and green pools. To aid in the prevention of WNV, it is very important property owners remove all sources of stagnant water from their property. San Bernardino County residents with pools are urged to keep them properly maintained.

[Click here](#) to download a brochure with more important facts on WNV prevention. People who are over the age of 50 are at a higher risk of developing severe illness if they contract WNV. If you're a senior, [click here](#) to download a brochure with information about how to keep yourself safe from WNV.

You can report dead birds to the California West Nile Virus website at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). For more information

or to report a green pool/mosquito breeding source, contact DEHS at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs).

### Day Biting Mosquitoes

Two non-native species of mosquitoes have been found in California: the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) and the Yellow Fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*). These mosquitoes have never been reported in California until the summer of 2013, when they were found in the counties of Fresno, Madera and San Mateo. Most recently, they were also found in the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles and Imperial. The Asian Tiger mosquito and the Yellow Fever mosquito bite primarily during the day, both indoors and outdoors.



The adults of both species are small (about a quarter-inch in size), are dark brown or black and have distinctive white markings around the body and legs. Both types of mosquitoes can carry WNV, but can also spread diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, and Chikungunya. Artificial or natural water-filled containers that are within or around the home are ideal habitats for these mosquitoes. Female mosquitoes can lay eggs in any open container holding as little as a teaspoon of water: plant saucers, cups, bird baths, and even old tires.

The Asian Tiger mosquito and the Yellow Fever mosquito have not been found in San Bernardino County. However, if you or anyone you know are being bitten during the daytime, please report it to your local vector control agency and save the specimen for identification, if possible. You can find your local vector control agency by entering your zip code [here](#).

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*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lana Cao, Health Education Specialist I,  
at 800-442-2283 or [Lana.Cao@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Lana.Cao@dph.sbcounty.gov).*

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**We appreciate the effort you make to protect the public's health in our County.**