



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST NILE VIRUS WEEKLY UPDATE *Virus Still Killing Birds in Record Numbers*

County Vector Control officials announced today that 43 dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this week, bringing this year's total to 361 dead birds, 13 mosquito pools, one horse, and ten humans. The 40 American crows, two Western scrub jays and one Brewer's black bird were found in Alpine, Carlsbad, City Heights, Chula Vista, Clairemont, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Kearney Mesa, La Jolla, Lakeside, Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, Oceanside, Pacific Beach, Poway, Ramona, Santee, Sorrento Valley, Spring Valley and Torrey Hills.

"Late August and early September has been prime time for human infections in the past," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "Residents must continue to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites when they are outside."

West Nile virus is primarily a bird disease that can be transmitted from birds to humans by infected mosquitoes. About 80 percent of people infected with the virus do not experience any symptoms, but some become ill within 3 to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

Residents can protect themselves by removing standing water from around their homes to prevent breeding, making sure that window and door screens are in good condition and using insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR 3535. For more information regarding repellents, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/repellentupdates. Unapproved repellents may not be effective.

The County's West Nile virus Web site, www.SDFightthebite.com has a mosquito prevention checklist that includes the most common backyard mosquito breeding sources from birdbaths to wheelbarrows. Residents should check their property weekly to ensure that standing water is not a breeding source for mosquitoes.

For information on WNV, or to report mosquito breeding sites, please call County Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

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