



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WEST NILE VIRUS WEEKLY UPDATE *Virus Continues to Spread Around San Diego County*

County Vector Control officials announced today that 17 dead birds and one batch of mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this week. No new humans or horses have been confirmed this week. **The reporting period is from Oct. 6 to Oct. 12, 2008.**

The mosquitoes and dead birds, including 13 American crows, two Western scrub jays, one Cooper's hawk and one Great Horned owl, were found in Bay Park, Clairemont, El Cajon, Escondido, Fallbrook, Jamul, La Jolla, La Mesa, Mira Mesa, Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Torrey Hills and Vista.

2008 to-date case counts include:

- 23 human cases
  - 22 locally-acquired cases
  - 1 non-locally-acquired case
- 497 dead birds
- 13 positive sentinel chickens
- 4 horse deaths
- 1 infected horse
- 38 positive mosquito batches

Steps to protect yourself against WNV:

- Use insect repellent when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active
- Use insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535
- Do not sleep outside, unprotected, or while camping; wear long sleeves and pants
- Ensure screens on windows and doors fit tightly and have no holes or other damage
- Check your property weekly for mosquito breeding sources; go to [www.SDFighttheBite.com](http://www.SDFighttheBite.com) for a mosquito prevention checklist
- Report neglected, green swimming pools to County Vector Control

For more information or to report dead birds or green pools, please call the County's WNV information line at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

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