



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION  
Nov. 4, 2008

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## **WEST NILE VIRUS WEEKLY UPDATE** ***Human Cases Rise to 31; Bird Cases to 535; County Continues Surveillance***

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency and the County Department of Environmental Health Vector Control report one new confirmed locally-acquired human case of West Nile virus (WNV), 10 dead birds, one sentinel chicken and one batch of mosquitoes. **The reporting period is from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3, 2008.**

The new case is a 12-year-old Rancho Penasquitos girl diagnosed with West Nile fever. She was not hospitalized, and is improving. The dead birds including five American Crows, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Western Scrub Jay, one Rainbow Lorikeet and one Cooper's Hawk were found in Campo, Carlsbad, Descanso, Escondido, La Mesa, Oceanside, Paradise Hills, Ramona, Serra Mesa, Solana Beach, Spring Valley, and Valley Center.

Total human case count for 2007 was 15. 2008 to-date case counts include:

- 31 human cases
  - 29 locally-acquired cases
  - 1 non-locally-acquired case
  - 1 locally-acquired case who was a blood donor with no symptoms
- 535 dead birds
- 15 positive sentinel chickens
- 4 horse deaths
- 1 infected horse
- 39 positive mosquito batches

- more -



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Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H, County of San Diego Public Health Officer, and Gary Erbeck, Director, County Department of Environmental Health Vector Control, urge the public to take the following steps to protect themselves 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, 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 green pools to County Vector Control

Most people infected with WNV do not develop any symptoms or become seriously ill. Nearly one in five who do fall ill may suffer from headache, fever, nausea, fatigue, skin rash or swollen glands. Approximately one in 150 people infected with WNV develop more serious neurological effects such as meningitis, encephalitis or myelitis. If you suspect you have WNV, contact your healthcare provider.

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

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