



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WEST NILE VIRUS WEEKLY UPDATE – RECORD WEEK!** *Mosquitoes and Birds Test Positive for West Nile Virus*

County Vector Control officials announced today that a batch of mosquitoes collected in Oceanside tested positive for West Nile Virus. Additionally, another 17 dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this week, bringing this year's total to one positive "mosquito pool" and 61 positive birds. The 13 American Crows, one Sharp-shinned Hawk, one Cooper's Hawk, one Raven and one pet parrot were found in Oceanside, Escondido, Solana Beach, Carmel Valley, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch, Pacific Beach and Lemon Grove.

"We routinely trap and test mosquitoes for the presence of many mosquito-borne diseases. Finding a positive mosquito pool is significant because mosquitoes do not travel far from the site of the infection," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "We are sending letters to warn residents of the potential health risk that exists in their neighborhood. Take personal precautions to protect yourself from mosquito bites."

**Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites:** You can protect yourself from the virus by staying inside when mosquitoes are most active and by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn or dusk. Use insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR 3535 when you are outdoors. Keep screens on doors and windows and make sure the screens are in good condition.

**Prevent Mosquito Breeding:** Backyard water sources are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Residents should dump or remove anything that can hold water, such as potted plants and saucers, rain gutters, buckets, trash cans, children's toys, old spare tires and wheelbarrows. Mosquito fish may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard water sources such as unused swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs.

Please call County Vector Control at 858-694-2888 to report dead birds, green swimming pools or other mosquito breeding sites. For more information about West Nile virus, call 1-888-551-INFO (4636) or visit [www.SDFightTheBite.com](http://www.SDFightTheBite.com).

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