



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2008

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WEST NILE VIRUS STILL ON THE RISE *Public Urged to Take Warnings Seriously*

County Vector Control officials announced today that three more chickens from one of Vector Control's sentinel flocks located in the Sorrento Valley area tested positive for West Nile virus. Mosquitoes collected just north of Torrey Pines State Reserve also tested positive.

Additionally, another record-breaking 33 dead birds including 24 American crows, three red-shouldered hawks, three Western scrub jays, two Cooper's hawks, and one raven tested positive for the virus. They were found in Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, Clairemont, Del Mar, Del Mar Heights, El Cajon, Encinitas, Lakeside, La Mesa, Miramar, Mira Mesa, Oceanside, Ramona, Rancho Penasquitos, University City and Vista. This brings this year's totals to 154 dead birds, eight sentinel chickens, five mosquito pools, one horse and one human.

"Vector Control staff is working overtime to protect and educate the public, but residents need to take personal responsibility, use repellent and avoid going outdoors when mosquitoes are biting," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "Anybody can get the virus if they are bitten by an infected mosquito. Last week, the first human case in San Diego was announced."

Residents should protect themselves by removing standing water from around their homes to prevent mosquito breeding. Make sure that window and door screens are kept closed and in good condition. When outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk hours, use EPA-registered, CDC-recommended insect repellents 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 neglected swimming pools and mosquito breeding sites, please call County Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

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