



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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

County Vector Control officials announced today that 33 dead birds and one batch of mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this week, bringing this year's total to 318 dead birds, 13 mosquito pools, one horse, and seven humans. The 31 American crows, one red-shouldered hawk and one Western scrub jay were found in Alpine, Bonsall, Carlsbad, Clairemont, Del Mar Heights, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Kearney Mesa, Lakeside, Oceanside, Pacific Beach, Poway, Ramona, Santee, Scripps Ranch, Tierrasanta and Vista.

"We will continue to see West Nile virus activity well into the fall," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "Residents must remain on guard, especially because of the announcement of two more human cases yesterday."

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.

County 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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