



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WEST NILE WEEKLY UPDATE**

### ***Sentinel Chickens, Mosquitoes and Record Number of Birds Test Positive***

County Vector Control officials announced today that for the first time this year, five chickens from one of Vector Control's sentinel flocks located in the Sorrento Valley area tested positive for West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes collected in the Del Cerro area, and the Hubbert and Foss Lake areas of Oceanside also tested positive.

Additionally, another record-breaking 25 dead birds, including 23 American crows, one raven and one red-shouldered hawk have tested positive for the virus. The birds were found in Camp Pendleton, Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, the College Area, Del Mar, El Cajon, Kearny Mesa, La Jolla, Lakeside, Mira Mesa, Oceanside, Poway, Ramona, Rancho Bernardo, Solana Beach, Sorrento Valley, University City and Vista. This brings this year's totals to 121 dead birds, 5 sentinel chickens, 4 mosquito pools and one horse.

"West Nile Virus is hitting us harder this year than ever before," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "Although we are in drought conditions, over watering and backyard mosquito breeding sources continue to be a problem. Vector Control staff are hard at work treating known mosquito breeding sites, but residents need to check their yards and must protect themselves from mosquito bites to avoid this preventable disease."

Residents should be sure that window and door screens are kept closed and in good condition. When outdoor during dawn and dusk hours use EPA registered, apply CDC-approved insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR 3535. For information regarding repellents, visit [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/repellentupdates](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/repellentupdates). Unapproved repellents may not be effective.

The County's West Nile virus Web site, [www.SDFightthebite.com](http://www.SDFightthebite.com) has a mosquito prevention checklist. For information on WNV, or to report mosquito breeding sites, please call County Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636).

**Editor's Note: A news availability is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. at 1700 Pacific Highway, San Diego.**