

Orange County Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 21, 2015



Contact:

Jared Dever, Director of Communications
Phone: (714) 971-2421 Fax: (714) 971-3940
E-mail: jdever@ocvcd.org

First Indication of West Nile Virus in 2015

Garden Grove, CA. The first indication of West Nile virus in 2015 has been detected in a sample of mosquitoes collected in the City of Tustin. The mosquitoes were captured on May 13, 2015 near the intersection of Prospect Ave. and Beneta Way. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) routinely tests groups of adult female mosquitoes for the presence of West Nile virus.

“The discovery of West Nile virus positive mosquitoes collected in May is not unusual. However, following the unprecedented epidemic in 2014 the District is taking additional measures to suppress the virus at the earliest indication. These measures include allocating additional staff to canvas the area looking for mosquito breeding sources, expanding public education, working with city officials to correct infrastructure issues, and conducting aerial surveillance earlier in the year to identify out-of-service swimming pools.” stated Michael Hearst, District Manager.

Recent aerial surveillance flights conducted to find out-of-service swimming pools have revealed a startling trend that may significantly contribute to mosquito production in Orange County. Approximately, 4,200 previously unknown out-of-service swimming pools were discovered during the 2015 countywide aerial surveillance. The District had 3,000 out-of-service swimming pools under routine inspection and treatment in 2014. The now combined 7,200 out-of-service swimming pools have strained District resources required to inspect and treat each these mosquito-breeding sources.

The District urges the public to conduct routine property inspections for mosquito-breeding sources. Look for any standing water around the house or neighborhood and either remove the water source, or contact the District to inspect and treat the source. Remember, mosquitoes can complete their life cycle in just one week in a water source as small as a bottle cap. If you find a dead bird, call the District as soon as possible. A District representative will collect all viable birds and submit them for testing.

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Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District makes following recommendations to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Eliminate any standing water around your house.
- Make sure all window and door screens on your house are in good repair.
- Wear a repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR 3535.
- Contact the Orange County Vector Control District to report dead birds or neglected pools.

714-971-2421 or 949-654-2421 or www.ocvcd.org