

ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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First West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Confirmed in Orange County

Garden Grove, Calif. – The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) has confirmed that mosquitoes collected in the cities of Anaheim and Garden Grove have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These are the first samples to test positive in the county this year. A dead bird recovered in Garden Grove has also tested positive for the virus.

The positive mosquitoes were collected in areas bordered by Euclid Ave., W. Broadway, Interstate 5, and W. Ball Rd. in Anaheim; Magnolia St., W. Cerritos Ave., Gilbert St., and W. Katella Rd. in Anaheim; Haster St., Lampson Ave., Lewis St., and State Route 22 in Garden Grove; and Gilbert St., Lampson Ave., Brookhurst St., and Garden Grove Blvd. in Garden Grove.

West Nile virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes, which acquire the virus when feeding on infected birds. At present, Orange County has not reported any human cases of West Nile virus.

“Multiple mosquito samples and a dead bird testing positive for West Nile virus indicate that the virus is circulating in the community,” said OCMVCD Director of Scientific and Technical Services Amber Semrow. “Anaheim and Garden Grove are historically high-risk areas for West Nile virus activity. Conditions across the region are favorable for sustained virus activity during the warm summer months.”

OCMVCD staff will continue to conduct surveillance, inspections, and control measures for mosquitoes in the area to prevent additional mosquito breeding. OCMVCD will also post WNV advisory signs alerting residents of WNV activity in the affected areas.

“Everyone in Orange County should do their part to prevent mosquitoes. Dumping and draining standing water is the most effective and environmentally-friendly way to rid mosquitoes from our communities,” said OCMVCD Public Information Officer Brian Brannon.

To prevent mosquito bites, take action and follow these tips:

- Dump and drain containers holding water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls
- Wear repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants while outside at dawn and dusk

For more information about prevention, visit www.ocvector.org.

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