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Coachella Mosquito Traps Detect West Nile Virus for the First Time in 2024

This is the first sample in the Coachella Valley positive for virus in 2024.

Coachella Valley, CA: Mosquitoes from a routine collection site in the City of Coachella tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) near Genoa St. and Avenue 53 making it the first sample from the valley to test positive for virus in 2024.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is increasing mosquito surveillance and control treatments in the area to reduce the number of mosquitoes and interrupt further transmission of the virus.

No human cases of mosquito-borne illness have been reported in the Coachella Valley.

About West Nile Virus

WNV spread when a female mosquito bites an infected bird. The mosquito then can become a carrier and transmit the virus to people. Most infected people will have no symptoms. Others will develop fever, headaches, and body aches; hospitalization is required in some cases, and in rare cases, death occurs. People with symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Don't go outside around dawn and dusk when these mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear insect repellent. <u>EPA registered ingredients</u> such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 (as directed on the product label).
- · Cover up. Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when mosquitoes are most active.
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Prevent mosquitoes around your home:

- · Check lawn drains for water and debris. Clean drains regularly.
- Inspect yards for standing water sources. Drain water that collects under potted plants, bird baths, tires, and any other water holding containers.
- · Clean and scrub pet dishes and water features weekly.
- Swimming pools, ponds, and fountains require working pumps and regular maintenance.