



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mosquitoes Testing Positive for West Nile Virus In Santa Barbara County

Mosquitoes, collected at Lake Los Carneros, City of Goleta on Thursday, April 2, 2015 tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). This is the first WNV positive mosquito pool in Santa Barbara County since 2006 and the first at Lake Los Carneros since 2005. It is also the earliest ever detection of WNV activity in Santa Barbara County.

The Mosquito and Vector Management District is inspecting sites including Lake Los Carneros every other week. They are also treating to kill mosquito larvae.

West Nile Virus can be transmitted by mosquitoes to humans. Most people (70-80%) who become infected with West Nile Virus do not develop any symptoms. About one in five people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as a headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile Virus disease recover fully.

Less than 1% of people infected with West Nile Virus will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis. Recovery from severe disease may take several weeks or months. Some of the neurologic effects may be permanent.

The most effective way to avoid West Nile Virus is to prevent mosquito bites by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active, especially from dusk until dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Use mosquito repellent according to label directions.
- Ensure that door and window screens are secured and in good repair.

It is also effective to reduce the mosquito breeding habitat:

- Eliminate standing and stagnant water.
- Free mosquito-eating fish are available for permanent water sources at the Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County.
- Horse owners should contact their veterinarian to have horses vaccinated.
- Contact the Mosquito and Vector Management District to report mosquito problems or poorly maintained pools or spas (805-969-5050).

The local history of West Nile Virus in Santa Barbara County may be found at:
<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/phd/epi.aspx?id=25060> For more information on West Nile Virus see www.westnile.ca.gov

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