

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 City of Newport Beach have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These are the first samples to test positive in the county this year. The positive mosquitoes were collected in an area bordered by Campus Dr., Jamboree Rd., State Route 73, and John Wayne Airport.

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

“Mosquito samples 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. “This is an early positive detection of West Nile virus activity in Orange County, and it is in line with activity seen in neighboring counties right now confirming that conditions across the region are favorable for sustained virus activity.”

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.

“We all need to work together to fight mosquitoes,” said OCMVCD Public Information Officer Brian Brannon. “Dumping and draining standing water is the most effective and environmentally friendly way to rid mosquitoes from our communities.”

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

Sign up to receive mosquito alerts and get more information by visiting www.ocvector.org.

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