

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

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First Indications of West Nile virus Activity in Orange County for 2017

Garden Grove, CA. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) has confirmed the first mosquito sample to test positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in 2017. The mosquitoes were collected from La Bonita Park in the city of La Habra on June 15, 2017. OCMVCD routinely monitors populations of adult mosquitoes and test groups of adult female mosquitoes for the presence of WNV and other mosquito-borne viruses.

“This detection should serve as a reminder that WNV is endemic in Orange County and continues to threaten public health. Residents are urged to take steps to reduce their exposure to mosquito bites this summer,” stated Mary-Joy Coburn, Public Affairs Coordinator.

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans via the bite of infected mosquitoes, which become infected when feeding on birds carrying the virus. OCMVCD has also recovered two WNV-positive dead birds from the cities of Lake Forest and Irvine during May and January, respectively [map attached].

District staff will post signs and distribute flyers alerting residents to the detection of the virus, and preventative measures they can take to prevent becoming infected. Additional inspectors have been deployed to canvass the area to look for mosquito breeding sources, expand public education, and work with city officials to correct infrastructure issues.

“Though the positive mosquitoes were collected in La Habra, all Orange County residents should assume that the virus is now active throughout the county and should take precautions, like wearing insect repellent and eliminating standing water around the home,” stated Coburn.

Orange County residents can do a variety of things to help protect themselves and the community, and to help reduce the risk from mosquitoes this season:

- Eliminate standing water around the home or office
- Make sure all window and door screens on the property are in good repair
- Request FREE mosquitofish from the District for placement in ornamental ponds

- Wear a repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR 3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- Contact the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to report dead birds or neglected swimming pools

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for District email notification, follow OCMVCD on social media, and visit the website for the most current West Nile virus information:

(714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421, or visit www.ocvector.org.

www.facebook.com/OCVectorControl/, <https://twitter.com/ocvector>

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West Nile Virus Activity Orange County, June 16 2017

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