

Ventura County Public Health News Release

Ventura County Public Health, A division of the Ventura Health Care Agency

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Second human case of West Nile Virus reported in Simi Valley

(SIMI VALLEY, Calif.) – Ventura County's second human case of neuroinvasive West Nile Virus (WNV) was reported this week by officials of Ventura County Public Health's Communicable Disease Program (VCPH).

A 75 year-old Simi Valley man was hospitalized for nine days with severe flu-like symptoms approximately two weeks after having received mosquito bites at his home. He has since been released from the hospital and continues to recuperate at home.

Ten days ago, on August 20, VCPH reported the first human case of WNV in Ventura County which involved a woman in her early 50's who also suffered mosquito bites at her East Ventura County home.

"It is imperative that all Ventura County residents be increasingly diligent about protecting themselves against West Nile Virus and preventing its further spread," said Dr. Robert Levin, VCPH Health Officer. "Other states have been very hard hit by this disease and we do not want California to become one of them."

Because WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through mosquito bites, protecting against mosquitos is the most effective way to protect and prevent against the disease.

VCPH officials remind residents to practice the "Three D's":

1. **DEFEND** – Keep mosquitos from biting by using EPA-registered insect repellent like DEET.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK** – Avoid going outside during the early mornings and evenings when mosquitos are most active. If you do have to go outside, wear long sleeves and pants to avoid skin exposure.
3. **DRAIN** – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water so eliminate all sources of standing water on your property.

If you notice standing water in your neighborhood, call the Ventura County Environmental Health Mosquito Complaint Hotline at: (805) 658-4310. Their vector control staff investigates and responds to all reports of mosquitos or potential mosquito breeding sources. For the latest information on West Nile Virus in California, go to: <http://westnile.ca.gov/>

For information about Ventura County vector and mosquito control programs, go to: <http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/technical-services/vector/index.html>

About the Ventura County Public Health Department

The Ventura County Public Health Department's (VCPH) mission is to empower the community to improve health; promote health and emergency preparedness; and prevent disease, injury, and disability.

VCPH is committed to protecting and promoting the health of all Ventura County residents, especially in those communities that have greater health disparities and reduced access to care.

Under the direction of Ventura County Public Health Director, Barry Fisher, VCPH employs more than 300 nurses, doctors, advocates, planners and researchers and administers a wide array of programs and services including preventive health, community nursing, emergency medical services, health education, infectious disease, epidemiology/surveillance and animal control.

For more information, call: (800) 781-4449 or go to: www.vchca.org/ph

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