



June 4, 2021

NEWS RELEASE

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Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes This Summer

First mosquito pool of 2021 confirmed with West Nile virus (WNV) in Kern

Warmer weather brings increased mosquito activity and Kern County Public Health reminds everyone to take precautions to protect yourself from mosquitoes as they make their seasonal return. The first confirmed mosquito pool in Kern County has been confirmed with West Nile virus (WNV).

WNV is mainly transmitted to people through the bites of infected mosquitoes. While many mosquito-borne illnesses such as WNV cause only mild symptoms in most people, the infection can cause severe illness and even death in rare cases.

“West Nile virus is well established in Kern County and we urge our community to protect themselves against mosquito bites,” says Brynn Carrigan, Director of Kern County Public Health. “Simple preventative measures such as removing sources of standing water in our yards can minimize the opportunity for mosquitoes to thrive in and around our homes.”

Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites:

- **Remove** standing or stagnate water from containers such flowerpots, fountains, birdbaths, pet bowls, and wading pools.
- **Clean/scrub** containers that collect water weekly to remove any remaining eggs.
- **Maintain** swimming pools in working condition.
- **Stock** garden ponds with fish that eat mosquito larvae.
- **Report** areas of mosquito infestation to your local vector control district.

Decrease Your Risk of Mosquito-Transmitted Infections:

- **Avoid** mosquitoes and mosquito-infested areas at all times of the day.
- **Wear** long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- **Apply** mosquito repellent to exposed skin when outdoors.
- **Ensure** doors and windows have screens in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Please visit our interactive WNV webpage <https://kernpublichealth.com/west-nile-virus/> that is updated regularly. Although the first WNV positive mosquito has been identified in the 93304 zip code, it is important for our entire community to take precautions when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn.

Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live, work, or play.

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