



June 28, 2024

NEWS RELEASE

Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases this Summer

First detection of mosquito-borne disease in Kern County mosquito population for 2024

Hot temperatures bring increased mosquito activity and increased risk for mosquito-borne diseases. The first mosquito sample has been confirmed for West Nile virus (WNV) in Kern County this year. While there have been no human cases reported yet this year, Kern County Public Health reminds everyone to take precautions to protect yourself from mosquitoes.

[West Nile virus](#) 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.

“Summer is here and brings hot temperatures, marking the time of year we see increased mosquito activity in our community,” says Brynn Carrigan, Director of Kern County Public Health. “Simple actions 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 potential mosquito 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 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 regularly updated interactive webpage <https://kernpublichealth.com/west-nile-virus/> for more information. Although the first positive mosquito sample has been identified in the 93263 zip code, it is important for our entire community to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live, work, or play.

Media Contact: Michelle Corson, 661-304-7766 or phpio@kerncounty.com.

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Grounded in Health

1800 Mt. Vernon Ave., Bakersfield, CA. 93306 | 661.321.3000 | www.kernpublichealth.com