

# 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 Huntington 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 Newland St., Adams Ave., Bushard St., and Atlanta Ave. in Huntington Beach.

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

“Mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile virus is an indication that the virus is circulating in the community. Huntington Beach is historically a high-risk area for West Nile virus activity. Conditions across the region are favorable for sustained virus activity during the warm summer months,” said Amber Semrow, Director of Scientific and Technical Services.

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 area.

“The District is using an integrated vector management approach to monitor and reduce mosquitoes in the area. However, it’s essential that community members do their part to dump and drain standing water,” said OCMVCD Public Information Officer Brian Brannon. “Residents can also protect themselves and their families by using EPA-registered repellent, wearing long-sleeved clothing and spreading the word to friends and neighbors.”

To prevent mosquito bites, take action and follow these tips:

- Dump and drain containers filled with water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Dump water from potted plant saucers
- 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

For more information about prevention, visit [www.ocvector.org](http://www.ocvector.org).

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