



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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WEST NILE VIRUS CASE REPORTED IN COUNTY

Five-Year-Old Child is Positive for Virus; Mosquito Season Ending

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reports a human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in San Diego County.

The patient is a five-year-old San Diego child, who was hospitalized in early October for cancer treatment, and developed encephalitis. An investigation into the source of West Nile infection is ongoing. The family traveled outside of San Diego County.

A San Diego man reported a WNV infection earlier this year that was not locally acquired. The man reported being bitten by mosquitoes in the Port of Los Angeles County area in August.

San Diego County Vector Control reports that with the onset of cold weather, mosquitoes are less likely to breed, and mosquito "season" typically winds down at the end of October, although limited breeding will occur all winter. Vector Control received a report of another positive dead bird collected on Oct. 14 in Rancho Santa Fe. Even though the season is winding down the public needs to stay vigilant in eliminating mosquito-breeding sources. To report dead birds or mosquito breeding Vector Control call (888) 551-4636.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals via mosquitoes, which become infected after feeding on infected birds. Most people infected with WNV have no symptoms; though a few will develop fever, skin rashes, headaches and body aches.

For more information on WNV, visit the County's Web site at www.SDFightTheBite.com.

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