



Maricopa County

Environmental Services Department Media Release

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MOSQUITOES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE **Both Trapped in East Valley Drainage Pipes**

(Phoenix) Two more mosquito samples collected in the East Valley have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. The Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services has already treated the areas where the mosquitoes were found, and notified the proper city authorities for further maintenance.

One of the infected mosquitoes samples was found in a drain located at a city park at Alma School Road and Baseline in Mesa. In addition to the West Nile virus, the mosquito sample also tested positive for Western Equine Encephalitis. Those drains were treated, and the City of Mesa was notified.

The other mosquito was trapped in a street drain near Elliot and Dobson in Chandler. That drain was also treated, and the City of Chandler was notified.

“This is another reminder that we all need to be diligent keeping backyards and fields free of standing water,” says John Townsend, Vector Control Program Manager for Maricopa County. “Make sure water bowls are cleaned regularly, ponds are cleaned out. And people should take precautions against bites when out at dusk or in the evening.”

West Nile Virus was first discovered in Maricopa County in August 2003. The disease is spread by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds that have migrated into an area. The mosquitoes then bite people or horses, which can become infected. Less than three percent of West Nile Virus infections result in serious disease. The virus can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Most people who are infected will show no symptoms at all, or have mild flu-like symptoms such as headache, fever and body aches. Rarely do symptoms get more severe.

Maricopa County monitors the mosquito population with insect traps, sentinel chicken flocks and citizen complaints. The county also uses several methods of mosquito control.

For more information, contact Justin Finestone, Public Information Officer, (602) 506-3432.

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