



# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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## West Nile Virus Cases Confirmed in Orange County

**(Santa Ana)** – Testing has confirmed the first two symptomatic West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in Orange County for 2008, bringing the total number of reported WNV human infections this year to four.

The confirmed symptomatic cases are:

- An 80-year-old Anaheim man who became ill in early July with symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease and remains hospitalized, and
- A 49-year-old central Orange County woman who became ill in late June with symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease and remains hospitalized. This infection may have been acquired during travel outside Orange County.

Previously reported were two asymptomatic blood donor WNV infections detected in Orange County.

“West Nile Virus season is underway, and we are very concerned about the potential impact on people’s health,” said Dr. Eric G. Handler, County Health Officer. “Because we can expect to see additional WNV cases from now into late September or October, Orange County residents should be taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites.”

Recommended WNV precautions include:

- Using insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, or products containing IR3535, always following label directions
- Emptying all standing water on your property to reduce areas in which mosquitoes may breed
- Making sure your window and door screens are in good condition
- Limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not experience symptoms or become seriously ill. Up to 20% of those infected with West Nile Virus will experience symptoms that may include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, tiredness, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. Anyone

-More-

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who develops the more serious symptoms of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease, such as high fever, severe headaches, neck stiffness, confusion, muscle weakness, or vision loss should seek medical care immediately. People over 50 years of age and those with certain medical conditions are at increased risk of serious complications from WNV infection.

Information on mosquito control is available on the Orange County Vector Control District's website at [www.ocvcd.org](http://www.ocvcd.org). Other websites with helpful information about West Nile Virus include:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- State of California [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)
- Orange County Health Care Agency [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com)

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