



# Maricopa County

## News Release

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West Nile Virus 2007

## **Mosquitoes are Here: 'Fight the Bite' this Spring!!'**

Rainstorms and unseasonably hot weather have made for a mosquito-friendly environment in the Valley. Mosquitoes are more than just nuisances. Maricopa County residents must not let their guard down from the potential risk of West Nile virus (WNV).

Mosquito breeding season is just beginning and summer will be here soon, so now is the best time to take the necessary steps to eliminate breeding sites and reduce the possibility of being bitten. The Maricopa County departments of Public Health and Environmental Services are thus reminding county residents of the potential threat of WNV and the need to take proper precautions to prevent contracting the disease.

Starting now and through the next few months, it is important to be alert while spending time outdoors, whether entertaining, camping, gardening, or enjoying other activities.

There are several things that the public can do to protect themselves against West Nile virus, including:

- When outdoors wear a mosquito repellent (follow label instructions, especially for use on children)
- Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around your property by removing standing water in potted plants, tires, buckets, and other containers
- Keep fountains and swimming pools properly operating and free from debris
- Report stagnant water such as green pools to Maricopa County
- Repair damaged window and door screens
- Contact Maricopa County for possible WNV infected dead birds drop-off locations
- When outdoors wear long sleeves and long pants to prevent mosquito bites
- Avoid outdoor activity before dawn and after dusk when mosquitoes are most active

So far this year, none of the mosquitoes collected from monitoring traps have tested positive, but it is still early in the season. Nevertheless, there has been an increase in mosquitoes found in the traps.

For more information on West Nile virus, including dead bird drop-off locations, and to report green pools, file any mosquito related complaint, or obtain WNV materials or presentations for your group/organization, call (602) 506-0700 or visit [www.maricopa.gov/wnv](http://www.maricopa.gov/wnv).