



**Greater Los Angeles County  
Vector Control District**  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

July 5, 2007

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District Identifies More West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes  
in Los Angeles County this Summer

**Santa Fe Springs--** A mosquito sample collected from the San Fernando Valley has been confirmed positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

The mosquitoes collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District on June 25, 2007 were identified as positive for WNV this week by the California Department of Public Health and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. The mosquitoes were collected from traps in Granada Hills from zip code 91344.

So far this year, there have been two other WNV positive mosquito samples identified in the Greater Los Angeles area. A sample collected in January from Rowland Heights was the first sign of virus activity in the region this year. More recently, mosquitoes collected in South El Monte near Whittier Narrows Recreation Area were confirmed positive on May 25, 2007.

Three dead birds collected earlier this year in Los Angeles County also tested positive for the virus. To date this year, there have been three reported human cases in California. All three were confirmed in Kern County.

Los Angeles County residents planning outdoor activities such as barbecues and camping trips this summer are advised to take precautions against mosquito bites.

"This is the season when mosquitoes are most active," says Minoo Madon, Scientific-Technical Services Director for the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District. "The hot weather conditions 'trigger' the virus activity in its natural disease cycle between mosquitoes and birds."

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Madon says the District will be posting WNV warning signs in the area to inform residents about the local virus activity. District staff will also step up disease surveillance and mosquito control efforts in the region.

The District is advising residents to take extra precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites. West Nile virus is here to stay and residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention:

- Inspect all areas around your home. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week to break the mosquito life cycle.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace water in birdbaths weekly.
- Fix leaky faucets and sprinklers that may create puddles.
- Avoid over-watering your lawns and gardens to prevent excess run-off.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish from the Greater L.A. County Vector Control District for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts, as birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. The CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline is 877-WNV BIRD or visit on-line at: [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

For more information or a media interview, please call Truc Dever at 562-244-2648 or visit: [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org)