



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

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For Immediate Release

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Fall Heat Wave Contributes to Increase in West Nile virus Activity

**Los Angeles, CA**—A September heat wave in Los Angeles increases West Nile virus activity. The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed a total of six West Nile virus positive (WNV+) mosquito samples and five WNV+ dead birds. Mosquito samples and most of the dead birds were collected in cities located within the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles County.

Two of the WNV+ mosquito samples came from Encino (zip code 91436), one from Van Nuys (zip code 91406), one from Burbank (zip code 91502), and two from Glendale (zip codes 91208 and 91206). This is the first West Nile virus positive mosquito activity reported in Glendale this year.

One of the WNV+ dead birds was collected from Cerritos (zip codes 90703), two from Sherman Oaks (zip codes 91403 and 91423), one from Valencia (zip code 91355), and one from Sunland (zip code 91040). All dead birds reported were American Crows. These are the first WNV+ dead birds to be collected from Sherman Oaks and Sunland so far this year.

To date this year, there have been 967 WNV+ mosquitoes reported in California, and 443 WNV+ dead birds.

Many residents will leave their windows and doors open because of the heat. The GLACVCD would like to remind residents to make sure that the screens on their windows and doors are properly maintained to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes. Also, mosquitoes are most active between dusk and dawn. Residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeve shirts and pants and wearing insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin.

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In addition to maintaining their screens and wearing approved repellents and dress, residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of West Nile virus in their neighborhoods by eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed:

- Inspect front and backyards. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, 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.
- Request FREE mosquitofish from your local vector control district for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.
- Report any mosquito activity near vacant or foreclosed homes and abandoned swimming pools in your neighborhood.

There is no cure for West Nile virus. West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. One in five persons will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms usually occur between 5 and 15 days and can include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, or a skin rash. These symptoms can last for several weeks to months. One in 150 people infected with the virus will require hospitalization. Severe symptoms include high fever, muscle weakness, neck stiffness, coma, paralysis, and possibly death.

The GLACVCD recommends that individuals exhibiting these symptoms consult a physician as soon as possible. Those most at risk are the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

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, call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).

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