



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

For Immediate Release

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Freedom from Mosquito Bites this Independence Day

Los Angeles, CA— Fourth of July weekend is finally here and it's time for three days of outdoor activities and fun in the sun. Many of us will be off from work but mosquitoes will be working overtime in the summer heat. Mosquitoes are most abundant during this time of year in Southern California, so the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) would like to encourage residents to enjoy the outdoors but also remember to protect themselves from mosquito bites, because that's how mosquitoes transmit diseases.

GLACVCD confirmed one additional West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead bird and three additional WNV positive mosquito samples this week. The WNV positive American Crow was collected in Cerritos (zip code 90703). The WNV positive mosquito samples were collected in Downey (zip code 90241), Van Nuys (zip code 91406) and Granada Hills (zip code 91344). So far this year, GLACVCD has reported three WNV positive dead birds and three WNV positive mosquito samples. All three dead birds have been American Crows and from Cerritos. This is the first confirmation of West Nile virus activity in Downey, Van Nuys and Granada Hills so far this year.

Statewide, there have been 28 WNV positive dead birds and 16 WNV positive mosquito samples reported in 2011.

Residents can follow a few simple steps to help keep mosquitoes from ruining their barbecues and fireworks shows this holiday weekend:

- When possible, avoid activities between dusk and dawn because that's when mosquitoes are most active
- Apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin
- Eliminate standing water around the home because that's where mosquitoes breed
- Maintain tight-fitting screens without tears on windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering the home
- Wear protective clothing like long-sleeve shirts and pants to keep mosquitoes from biting

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For more information regarding this press release or other vector control topics, please contact Public Information Officer Crystal Brown at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 758-6511 or visit www.glacvcd.org.

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