



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

For Immediate Release

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GLACVCD Confirms the First West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Sample in Los Angeles County for 2010

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed the first West Nile Virus positive (WNV+) mosquito sample for the year. The mosquitoes were collected in the City of Encino (zip code 91436). So far this year, two WNV+ dead birds have been collected within District boundaries in addition to this WNV+ mosquito sample. Statewide, there have been 66 WNV+ dead birds and 107 WNV+ mosquito samples reported for 2010.

Mosquitoes are typically most abundant from May through October. This year's cooler temperatures have helped keep West Nile Virus activity low thus far. With this first positive mosquito sample of the season, GLACVCD staff would like to remind residents to take the proper protective measures against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. When engaging in outdoor activities, use CDC approved insect repellent to prevent mosquito bites. Residents are also advised to wear long sleeve shirts and pants between dusk and dawn, and to utilize well maintained and properly fitted screens on their windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of their homes.

In addition to preventing mosquito bites, residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of WNV in their neighborhoods by eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed by taking the following steps:

- 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.

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News Release / P. 2

- 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.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for West Nile Virus. One in five persons infected with West Nile Virus 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.

GLACVCD recommends that individuals exhibiting these symptoms following a mosquito bite consult a physician as soon as possible. Those at highest risk for severe cases of West Nile Virus are the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile Virus surveillance and control efforts because birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. To reach the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), call their toll-free hotline at 877-WNV BIRD or visit them on-line at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information, 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.