



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Confirmed in Two Dead Birds

Los Angeles, CA— Two more West Nile virus positive (WNV+) dead birds have been confirmed within the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District's (GLACVCD) boundaries. The birds were collected by the Los Angeles County Public Health Veterinarians in the cities of Stevenson Ranch (zip code 91381) and La Mirada (zip code 90638). The District has recorded four WNV+ dead birds to date this year. This is the second WNV+ dead bird identified from Stevenson Ranch and the first from La Mirada for 2010. Statewide, 66 WNV+ dead birds have been reported.

The District urges residents living in Greater Los Angeles area to let the report of WNV+ dead birds serve as a reminder that the virus is active and continues to be a threat in California. "Since birds travel, everyone in the Greater Los Angeles area should be aware of the virus activity in addition to the cities where the birds were identified," says Crystal Brown, Public Information Officer for GLACVCD. "West Nile virus is endemic to California and signs of activity remind us all that we need to follow the simple precautionary measures to help prevent disease transmission."

Residents can follow the 3 D's of West Nile virus prevention to protect themselves and their families:

1. **Dump/Drain**
Eliminate standing water because that's where mosquitoes breed.
2. **Dusk/Dawn**
Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
3. **Defend**

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Wear CDC approved insect repellent and long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Utilize properly fitted and well maintained screens on windows and doors around your home.

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. The District would like to thank the Los Angeles County Public Health Veterinarians for their continued diligence in collecting reported dead birds.

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.

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.

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