



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

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West Nile virus Activity Starts Early This Year

Santa Fe Springs, CA--The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed the first West Nile virus (WNV) positive bird in L.A. County for 2009. Tests on a dead American crow from Valencia confirmed active virus transmission in the region. The dead bird was collected in zipcode 91355 early last week. Last year, no WNV positive birds were identified in L.A. County until the end of April. Statewide, ten birds have tested positive for the virus so far this year. Nine of those were collected in Southern California.

The District is gearing up in anticipation of another busy mosquito season. More than 200 service requests were submitted by residents to the District in March, and those numbers are expected to rise as April traditionally marks the start of the season. The 2008 season saw a dramatic increase in West Nile virus activity statewide. The number of dead birds and mosquito samples confirmed positive for the virus in 2008 doubled from the previous year. Last year, the California Department of Public Health confirmed 445 human cases of West Nile virus. 15 of those people died from West Nile virus-related complications.

The on-going housing crisis continues to pose a challenge for the District with the high number of foreclosures and vacant homes with neglected swimming pools providing ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes. The District continues to urge residents to report dirty swimming pools and vacant properties that may harbor mosquitoes. Residents should also take precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases.

Remember the 3 D's:

- **DUMP and DRAIN:** Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed
- **DUSK and DAWN:** Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active
- **DEFEND:** Prevent mosquito bites by wearing approved insect repellents

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The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is a local government and public health agency dedicated to reducing populations of public health vectors and preventing human infection associated with mosquito-transmitted diseases. The District serves 34 cities in Los Angeles County and areas of unincorporated L.A. County. GLACVCD provides vector and disease prevention, surveillance, control, and educational services to more than 6 million residents within a 1,330 square mile area.

For more information, or if you wish to contact the District, call (562)944-9656 for the District headquarters or dial (818)364-9589 to reach the District's Sylmar facility. For additional information regarding West Nile virus activity in California, visit www.westnile.ca.gov.

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