



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile virus Activity Continues: Three More West Nile Virus Positive Dead Birds Confirmed

Santa Fe Springs—The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has identified three more West Nile virus positive (WNV+) birds, one each from the cities of Valencia (zip code 91354), Santa Clarita (zip code 91350), and Van Nuys (zip code 91401). This brings the total number of WNV+ dead birds found within District boundaries to 13 for the year. To date this year, there have been 50 WNV+ dead birds reported in Los Angeles County and 329 for the State of California.

“Since birds can travel long distances there is no way of knowing exactly where they were infected,” says Susanne Kluh, Director of Scientific-Technical Services. Residents are encouraged to do what they can to protect themselves against West Nile virus year-round. The virus is endemic to California and the public is always at risk of disease transmission. Kluh continues that those living in the specific zip codes where the dead birds were collected could have more of a cause for concern. “We do know, however, that statistically there is a higher likelihood of West Nile virus positive mosquito presence in areas surrounding West Nile virus positive dead birds.” Residents living in Valencia, Santa Clarita and Van Nuys are encouraged to increase their personal efforts to protect themselves against the virus.

This report of three WNV+ dead birds follows last week’s confirmation of 29 WNV+ mosquito samples that were collected throughout Greater Los Angeles County. There have been 35 WNV+ mosquito samples collected within the District’s territory, 38 for Los Angeles County, and 504 for the State of California.

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The District is advising all residents to take extra precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites. West Nile virus is here to stay and residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention:

- Inspect all areas around your home. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, 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.
- Fix leaky faucets and sprinklers that may create puddles.
- Avoid over-watering your lawns and gardens to prevent excess run-off.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes
- Call the District to request FREE mosquitofish for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes. A qualified technician can deliver them to your home.

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.

For more information, call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562)944-9656 or visit www.glacvcd.org.