



Greater Los Angeles County  
Vector Control District  
12545 Florence Ave.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
(562) 944-9656

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# INFORMATION RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**Contact:** Truc Dever  
Dir. Of Community Affairs  
Office: (562) 944-9656  
Cell: (562) 244-2648  
Email: [tdever@glacvcd.org](mailto:tdever@glacvcd.org)

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquito Samples from Long Beach & Whittier

**Santa Fe Springs**— West Nile virus activity continues to increase in Los Angeles County this summer with the confirmation of West Nile virus positive (WNV+) mosquitoes in the Cities of Long Beach and Whittier. Today, officials from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) reported the presence of virus activity in two mosquito samples, one collected in Long Beach along East Carson Street in zipcode 90808 and the second collected in Whittier along Whittier Blvd. in zipcode 90603. So far this year, the District's vector ecologists have identified a total of six positive mosquito samples within District boundaries. Earlier this week, the District confirmed two WNV+ dead birds in Hacienda Heights and Canyon Country respectively, bringing the agency's year-to-date total to 10 WNV+ dead birds.

"We are posting West Nile virus warning signs in the areas where these samples were collected and are notifying staff at nearby community and recreation facilities," says Truc Dever, Director of Community Affairs. "It's important to remember that West Nile virus is endemic to Southern California so we can expect to see virus activity in birds and mosquitoes during the warm months year after year." Dever says residents should view these notifications of virus activity as a reminder of the potential disease threat and take the necessary precautions to prevent mosquito breeding and mosquito bites. "In a densely populated, urban area like L.A. County, the District must look to the residents to take an active part in West Nile virus prevention." Dever says that includes eliminating or reporting stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed and using approved insect repellents when outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.

Residents planning outdoor activities this weekend should keep the **Seven D's** of mosquito prevention in mind.

-More-

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- **Drain** standing water around your home.
- Avoid outdoor activities between **Dawn** and **Dusk**, when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress** appropriately by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside.
- **Defend** yourself with an effective mosquito repellent. Be sure to follow label instructions.
- **Door** and window screens should be in working condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Call your local **District** if you need any additional help or information.

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](http://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](http://www.glacvcd.org).