



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Activity Confirmed in Long Beach

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) confirmed a West Nile virus positive mosquito sample in Long Beach (zip code 90808). Statewide, 676 West Nile virus positive mosquito samples have been confirmed.

Warm temperatures and standing water are perfect breeding conditions for mosquitoes. Under ideal conditions, a mosquito can emerge as an adult in as few as three days. A neglected rain barrel, abandoned pond or overlooked fountain can all breed thousands of mosquitoes. Disrupt mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water around your home. Clean bird baths, water dishes and troughs on your property weekly. Keep your pools and ponds filtered, or request free mosquito-eating fish from GLACVCD. Unclog rain gutters and replace trash can lids immediately after use. Rain barrels are also potential breeding sites if not properly maintained.

GLACVCD also encourages residents to report green pools and potential mosquito breeding problems in their neighborhoods. Service requests can be submitted online or over the phone, and can be made anonymously. A California-certified Vector Control Specialist will respond to the request within one business day.

West Nile virus is spread to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. In addition to eliminating stagnant water, residents can take the following precautions to prevent mosquito bites and West Nile virus transmission:

- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors between dusk and dawn because that is when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use Center for Disease Control approved insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

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- Keep properly maintained and well-fitted screens on your windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

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

For more information, please contact Public Information Officer Crystal Brown at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 x511 or visit www.glacvcd.org.