



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

For Immediate Release

July 29, 2010

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Samples Confirmed in Pico Rivera and Sun Valley

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) confirmed two more West Nile Virus positive (WNV+) mosquito samples for the year. The mosquitoes were collected from Whittier Narrows Regional Park in Pico Rivera (zip code 90660) and Hansen Dam Recreational Area in Sun Valley (zip code 91352). This is the first confirmation of West Nile virus activity in both cities for this year. So far, the California Department of Public Health has confirmed 322 WNV+ mosquito samples for 2010.

Summertime usually means fun in the sun for many Southern Californians, especially at the popular recreation areas where these two positive samples were collected. “Residents can still enjoy their time outdoors this summer despite mosquito and West Nile virus activity,” says Public Information Officer Crystal Brown. “Residents should just be aware of mosquito bite prevention measures that will help to protect them and their families from West Nile virus.” Brown recommends using CDC-approved insect repellent on exposed skin, especially between dusk and dawn when local mosquitoes are most active. Repellent should be applied based on duration and type of activity. Sweat will make the repellent wear off faster, and people engaging in physical activity will likely need to apply repellent more often. Residents should always follow the directions on the repellent’s label. Brown reminds everyone to think about repellent as often as they might think about sunscreen when outdoors during the summer.

West Nile virus warning signs have been posted in public areas where disease activity has been confirmed, to alert residents and visitors of the increased health risk.

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In addition to staying informed and preventing mosquito bites, residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of WNV in their neighborhoods by eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed. Just follow these simple steps:

- Inspect front and backyards. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, 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.
- Request FREE mosquitofish from your local vector control district for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.
- Report any mosquito activity near vacant or foreclosed homes and abandoned swimming pools in your neighborhood.

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.

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) 758-6511 or visit www.glacvcd.org.

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