



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Activity Confirmed in Granada Hills

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District has confirmed its second West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample for the year. The sample was collected from Granada Hills (zip code 91344). Statewide, there are three reported WNV positive mosquito samples so far this year.

As temperatures rise, so does the potential for increased mosquito populations and incidences of West Nile virus activity. GLACVCD staff would like to encourage residents to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites this summer with the same diligence used by outdoor enthusiasts to prevent sunburns. You can reduce the risk of mosquito bites by using insect repellents with EPA-registered active ingredients, wearing long sleeve shirts and pants in areas where mosquitoes might be present, and avoiding outdoor activities between dusk and dawn.

Residents can follow the 3 D's of West Nile virus prevention to protect themselves and their families:

- 1. Dump/Drain**
Eliminate standing water because that's where mosquitoes breed.
- 2. Dusk/Dawn**
Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.

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3. Defend

Apply insect repellents with EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET and Picaridin and wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Utilize properly fitted and well maintained screens on windows and doors around your home.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito, and there is no cure for West Nile virus. One in five persons infected with the 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.

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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