



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

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For Immediate Release

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## **Numbers for West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Spike**

**Los Angeles, CA**— The number of West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito samples reported within the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District's (GLACVCD) territory has doubled within one week. GLACVCD has reported an additional five West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds and 46 more WNV positive mosquito samples. This brings the District's total to 26 WNV positive dead birds and 82 WNV positive mosquito samples so far this year.

Of the five WNV positive dead birds collected, two were from Cerritos (zip code 90703), one from Northridge (zip code 91324), one from Compton (90220), and one from Whittier (zip code 90603). Of the 46 WNV positive mosquito pools identified this week, two were identified in Bellflower (zip code 90706), three in Downey (zip code 90241), six in Encino (zip code 91436), one in Granada Hills (zip code 91344), two in Long Beach (zip codes 90808 and 90810), one in Montebello (zip code 90640), one in Northridge (zip code 91326), one in Panorama City (zip code 91402), three in Pico Rivera (zip code 90660), one in Sylmar (zip code 91342), one in Valencia (zip code 91355), 11 in Van Nuys (zip code 91406), and 13 in Whittier (zip codes 90603, 90604, 90605). This is the first incidence of West Nile virus activity for Bellflower, Panorama City, Sylmar, and Valencia for 2011.

"Mosquitoes breed more rapidly in warm weather," says Public Information Officer Crystal Brown. "With a higher abundance of mosquitoes comes a higher risk of West Nile virus transmission." Brown continued that residents throughout Greater L.A. County should take note of the significant increase in West Nile virus activity this week and make sure to follow the simple steps to prevent mosquito bites.

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

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

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Wear EPA-registered insect repellent and long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Use properly-fitted screens free from tears on windows and doors around your home.

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.

For more information about West Nile virus and our vector control services, 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](http://www.glacvcd.org). For statewide information and statistics about West Nile virus, or to report a dead bird or squirrel, visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or call **1-877-WNV BIRD**.

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