



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

For Immediate Release

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GLACVCD Launches Preemptive Campaign to Warn Residents of West Nile Virus Threat

Los Angeles, CA— West Nile virus activity is approaching levels recorded in epidemic years throughout Greater Los Angeles County. In response to this serious public health threat, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) is planning an aggressive public outreach and mosquito control campaign to raise awareness and safeguard residents against mosquito bites and virus transmission.

After careful analysis of mosquito infection rates throughout the District, GLACVCD is focusing outreach and control efforts on “hot spots” in the communities of Norwalk, Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Whittier this week. A comprehensive door-to-door campaign will take place on Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Friday, staff members will target portions of the communities of Norwalk, Studio City and Whittier. On Saturday, they will reach out to the remaining target areas in Whittier and neighborhoods in Sherman Oaks. Staff members will be notifying residents of the West Nile virus activity in their area, providing them with instructive brochures, and offering to conduct yard inspections for mosquito breeding sources. Bilingual Spanish/English door hangers will be left on homes where in-person contact cannot be made.

While community education and outreach is being escalated in areas of heightened activity, operational staff continue to deploy available resources and strategies to target mosquito populations below ground, in the underground storm drains, and above ground across the District’s diverse urban landscape.

“Our Vector Control Specialists work diligently year-round in all of our communities throughout Greater Los Angeles County to control mosquito populations,” says Director of Community Affairs Truc Dever. “However, unknown backyard breeding sources are a major problem for us, so we must partner with the community to help us identify and eliminate standing water. Our goal with this campaign is to give residents the knowledge and tools necessary to protect themselves from this potentially debilitating disease while providing immediate service to residents through property inspections and source reduction.”

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The District hopes that this important campaign will not only alert residents to this year's particularly ominous West Nile virus threat, but will also incite a call-to-arms for people to apply insect repellent and eliminate mosquito breeding sources around their homes.

Media opportunities will be available Friday, August 12. To schedule an interview or for more information, please contact Public Information Officer Crystal Brown at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 x511. Visit www.glacvcd.org for further vector control and West Nile virus information. For statewide information and statistics about West Nile virus, or to report a dead bird or squirrel, visit www.westnile.ca.gov or call 1-877-WNV BIRD.

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