



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Activity Approaching Epidemic Year Levels

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) is urging residents to be on alert this week following the continued increase of West Nile virus (WNV) activity throughout Greater Los Angeles County. In just one week, GLACVCD has reported 13 WNV positive dead birds and 31 WNV positive mosquito samples. Additionally, four sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus antibodies.

Of the 13 WNV positive dead birds collected, four were collected in Cerritos (zip code 90703), one in Chatsworth (zip code 91311), one in Downey (zip code 90240), one in Encino (zip code 91316), one in La Mirada (zip code 90638), one in Long Beach (zip code 90815), one in Northridge (zip code 91324), one in Panorama City (zip code 91402), one in Van Nuys (zip code 91405), and one in Whittier (zip code 90605). Of the 31 WNV mosquito samples identified this week, one was identified in Boyle Heights (zip code 90033), three in Burbank (zip code 91505), two in Cerritos (zip code 90703), two in Diamond Bar (zip code 91765), three in Encino (zip code 91436), one in La Mirada (zip code 90638), two in Northridge (zip code 91326), three in Norwalk (zip code 90650), four in Panorama City (zip code 91402), four in Pico Rivera (zip code 90660), one in Rowland Heights (zip code 91748), one in San Marino (zip code 91108), three in Studio City (zip code 91604), one in Winnetka (zip code 91306), and one in Woodland Hills (zip code 91367). Three of the four sentinel chickens were from Rowland Heights (zip code 91748) and one was from the Sepulveda Basin (zip code 91436). This is the first incidence of West Nile virus activity for Boyle Heights, San Marino and Woodland Hills for 2011.

This brings the District's total to 39 WNV positive dead birds, 114 WNV positive mosquito samples, and four sentinel chickens with antibodies so far this year. Statewide, 118 WNV positive dead birds, 271 WNV positive mosquito samples and 19 WNV positive sentinel chickens have been reported so far this year.

"The level of West Nile virus detected in mosquito samples and dead birds in Los Angeles County this July is the highest it's been since the last epidemic year in 2008," said Director of Scientific-Technical Services Susanne Kluh. "We are urging residents to take notice of the elevated level of virus activity this summer and protect themselves." Kluh continued that human cases are often reported soon after sentinel chickens test positive for WNV antibodies. She strongly recommends residents make sure to

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do their part to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes and West Nile virus through mosquito bite and mosquito breeding prevention.

Residents can be proactive and follow the 3 D's of West Nile virus prevention to help stop the transmission of West Nile virus:

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

Wear insect repellent containing EPA-registered ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin or Lemon Eucalyptus Oil and long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Use properly-fitted screens free from tears on windows and doors around your home to keep mosquitoes out.

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 children, 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. 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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