



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

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For Immediate Release

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## West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes in Cerritos and Long Beach

Mosquitoes submitted on May 31, 2005 from the City of Cerritos were confirmed positive for West Nile virus (WNV) by the California Department of Health Services and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory on June 10, 2005. The mosquitoes were collected by South Street and Coyote Creek in Cerritos. Three mosquito pools collected from the City of Long Beach on June 7, 2005 were also confirmed positive on June 10, 2005. A total of five positive mosquito pools were collected from Long Beach, but three are within the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District's (GLACVCD) jurisdiction, and the other two are within Long Beach City's Public Health Department authority. The mosquitoes within GLACVCD boundaries in Long Beach were collected near the Market Place at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Pacific Coast Highway and in the Marina Pacifica area. This is the first detection of mosquito WNV activity within GLACVCD for 2005.

West Nile virus warning signs will be posted in Cerritos and Long Beach. "The District only posts warning signs when positive mosquitoes are found in recreational or public areas where people are active at dawn or dusk," says District Manager Jack Hazelrigg. The warning signs are in English and Spanish and will be posted along the Coyote Creek bike trail in Cerritos from the 91 freeway south to Carson Street, and in Cerritos Regional County Park. In Long Beach, the signs will be posted... The District will continue maximum efforts in controlling mosquitoes in the vicinity.

"Positive mosquitoes from these locations within the District strongly indicates that West Nile virus activity is rapidly increasing," states Scientific-Technical Services Director Minoo Madon. No human cases have yet been reported from California or in any state this year, however, the public should be aware that West Nile virus activity is currently in progress and they need to take precautions. Along with WNV positive mosquitoes, five WNV positive dead birds have been collected within GLACVCD from the Valencia (2), Woodland Hills (1), Long Beach (1), and Pico Rivera (1).

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“Wipe Out West Nile Virus” is a public awareness campaign launched by mosquito and vector control districts in metropolitan Los Angeles and surrounding communities to assist in preventing West Nile virus. Residents can protect themselves and their family by playing an active role in mosquito prevention.

- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, ponds, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, or anything holding water for more than a few days. This will stop the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

For more information please visit: [www.glacvcd.org](http://www.glacvcd.org).