



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Discovered in Santa Clarita

Mosquitoes collected from two mosquito traps set in residential areas in Santa Clarita are positive for West Nile virus. The mosquitoes collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District were confirmed positive for West Nile virus on August 4 and 12, 2005 by the California Department of Health Services and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. The positive mosquitoes were collected within zip codes 91321 and 91355 between Mcbean Pkwy, Orchard Village Rd, Lyons Ave., and the 5 freeway.

Last year, the month of August had the most West Nile virus activity in Los Angeles County. This year, Santa Clarita is experiencing a steady increase in virus activity, especially this August. Since February 2005, there has been ten West Nile virus positive dead birds reported from the Santa Clarita area. Eight out of the ten birds have been reported in August. This is now the peak season for West Nile virus transmission.

District Manager Jack Hazelrigg, Ph.D. states, "We need residents to take proactive measures and help us combat West Nile virus by eliminating standing water on their property. Once the stagnant water is gone, so are the mosquitoes." The District is proactive in controlling mosquitoes in public sources such as street gutters, channels, underground storm drains and other public sources, but backyards are also significant contributors to the mosquito population and most of these sources are not easily accessible to District staff for inspection and control purposes.

To help notify Santa Clarita residents about the occurrence of West Nile virus, the District will be posting West Nile virus warning signs in the following recreational areas: Vista Valencia Golf Course, Valencia Meadows Park, and Old Orchard Park. The District does not discourage park use, but just warning recreation users to be more cautious of increased virus activity in this area.

Residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention.

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- 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 when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish at your local vector control district for placement in ponds, out-of-order swimming pools, and spas to control mosquitoes.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD or visit www.westnile.ca.gov

For more information please call (562) 944-9656 or visit: www.glacvcd.org