



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

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2009

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West Nile virus Positive Mosquito Sample Confirmed in Sunland

Sunland—The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed another West Nile Virus positive (WNV+) mosquito sample this summer. The WNV+ mosquito sample was confirmed in the Los Angeles area of Sunland in zip code 91040. This is the first WNV+ mosquito sample collected this year in Sunland and the fourth sample confirmed in the District for 2009. Statewide, there have been 292 WNV+ mosquito samples reported in California so far this year.

The GLACVCD reminds the public that WNV is endemic to California. Residents are always at risk of WNV contraction, especially during summer months when mosquito activity is highest. With two WNV+ human cases reported in California so far this summer, the GLACVCD urges Los Angeles citizens to take extra precautions and do what they can to prevent West Nile virus human infection in Los Angeles.

Residents can take an active role in preventing mosquito breeding and bites by following a few simple steps:

- Inspect front and backyards. Eliminate standing water in clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs or anything that holds water for more than a week to break the mosquito life cycle.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace water in birdbaths weekly.
- Avoid activity between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

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- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes
- Request FREE mosquitofish from your local vector control district for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.
- Report any mosquito activity near vacant or foreclosed homes and abandoned swimming pools in your neighborhood.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts, as birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. The CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline is 877-WNV BIRD or visit on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information, call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562)944-9656 or visit www.glacvcd.org