



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

For Immediate Release

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Additional West Nile Virus Activity Confirmed Throughout Greater Los Angeles County

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed five additional West Nile virus positive (WNV+) mosquito samples for the summer. The WNV+ mosquitoes were collected from South El Monte (zip code 91733), Rowland Heights (zip code 91748), Granada Hills (zip code 91344), Winnetka (zip code 91306), and Woodland Hills (zip code 91367). These numbers add to a reported 433 WNV+ mosquito samples for the State of California for 2010.

GLACVCD works diligently year-round to protect residents from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. “We’ve heightened our surveillance of swimming pools and other potential breeding sources,” says Director of Operations Mark Daniels. “We’ll continue to work with other agencies to reduce habitats conducive to mosquito breeding and protect public health.” GLACVCD employs seasonal extra-help staff during the heightened mosquito breeding months to ensure more comprehensive coverage over the 1,330 square miles of area the District manages. District staff also asks residents to report mosquito breeding problems in their neighborhoods to help with surveillance efforts and disease prevention. Service requests can be submitted online or over the phone, and can be made anonymously.

GLACVCD recommends for residents engaging in outdoor activities to use CDC approved insect repellent to prevent mosquito bites. Residents are also advised to wear long sleeve shirts and pants between dusk and dawn, and to utilize well maintained and properly fitted screens on their windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of their homes.

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In addition to preventing mosquito bites, residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of WNV in their neighborhoods by eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed by taking the following 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.
- 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.

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 the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile Virus surveillance and control efforts because birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. To reach the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), call their toll-free hotline at 877-WNV BIRD or visit them on-line at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information, 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.

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