



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Activity Confirmed in Two More Cities in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles, CA— West Nile virus activity continues to increase in Los Angeles County this summer with mosquito samples testing positive for the virus in two more cities. The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) confirmed a total of six additional positive mosquito samples, two of which were collected from the cities of La Mirada (zipcode 90638) and Signal Hill (zipcode 90755). This is the first sign of virus activity in these cities so far this year. Four other mosquito samples tested positive, one each from Whittier (zipcode 90604), Hawaiian Gardens (zipcode 90716), Lakewood (zipcode 90713), and Santa Clarita (zipcode 91321).

To date this year, the District has identified 62 West Nile virus positive mosquito pools. There have been 908 mosquito samples confirmed statewide, down from 1,553 samples confirmed this time last year.

Despite the drop in activity throughout the state this year, persistent warm weather could fuel additional mosquito breeding and virus transmission well into the fall. Residents should continue taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites and breeding around their homes. Remember to wear long sleeve shirts and pants and use insect repellents approved by the Centers for Disease Control when outdoors between dusk and dawn. Other simple changes to your daily routine could help keep you and your family safe and healthy.

- Inspect your yard and around your home. 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.
- Report any mosquito activity near vacant or foreclosed homes and abandoned swimming pools in your neighborhood.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace water in birdbaths weekly.
- Avoid activity between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active

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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.

West Nile virus is now endemic to California and there is no cure for this potentially debilitating, and even fatal disease.

One in five people infected with the virus will exhibit symptoms. Symptoms usually occur between 5 to 15 days after infection 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.

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.