



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

For Immediate Release

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Weather Cools but West Nile virus Activity Continues in October

Los Angeles, CA—Despite cooling temperatures this fall, West Nile virus activity continues into October. The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed five West Nile virus positive (WNV+) dead birds and five WNV+ mosquito samples from eight cities throughout Greater Los Angeles County.

The five WNV+ dead birds were collected from four different cities. One of the five WNV+ dead birds was collected in Sherman Oaks (zip code 91403), two in Northridge (zip codes 91324 and 91326), and two in Van Nuys (zip code 91401). These are the first WNV+ dead birds collected from Northridge this year. So far this year, there has been a total of 471 West Nile virus positive dead birds reported for the State of California, with 71 of them reported from Los Angeles County.

The five WNV+ mosquito samples were also confirmed in four different cities. Two of the five samples were confirmed in Whittier (zip codes 90605 and 90603), one in Van Nuys (zip code 91411), one in Pico Rivera (zip code 90660), and one in Panorama City (zip code 91402). This is the first indication of West Nile virus activity in Pico Rivera so far this year. To date this year, there have been 1,034 mosquito samples reported in the State of California, with 80 samples confirmed in Los Angeles County.

The GLACVCD would like to remind residents that mosquitoes may remain active through early fall, depending on weather conditions. Residents should continue taking the proper precautions to help reduce the threat of West Nile virus transmission. Residents can take an active role to prevent mosquito breeding around their homes by eliminating any stagnant water on their property. Residents should maintain their swimming pools through the winter to prevent mosquito breeding. Residents are also encouraged to call the GLACVCD to request free mosquitofish to place in their unused or out-of-order pools or ponds.

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In addition to maintaining their pools and backyards, residents can be proactive in West Nile virus prevention by taking the following steps:

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Wear light-colored, long, loose clothing, such as long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Mosquitoes can bite through thin or tight clothes.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active: dawn, sunset, and early evening.
- Apply repellent whenever you are outdoors, even for a short period of time. Choose a repellent based on how long you plan to be outside and what you will be doing. Remember when you are sweating, physically active, or getting wet, repellents do not last long.

There is no cure for West Nile virus. West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. One in five persons 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.

The GLACVCD recommends that individuals exhibiting these symptoms consult a physician as soon as possible. Those at highest risk 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, 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, please contact Crystal Brown at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit www.glacvcd.org.

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