



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile virus Activity Continues into the Fall Season

Los Angeles, CA—The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed more West Nile virus activity this week. Seven West Nile virus positive (WNV+) mosquito samples and three WNV+ dead birds were identified as the fall season approaches.

The seven positive mosquito samples were collected from five cities throughout Greater Los Angeles County. Lakewood (zip code 90713) and Granada Hills (zip 91344) both had two WNV+ mosquito samples, while Cerritos (zip code 90703), Hawaiian Gardens (zip code 90716), and Santa Fe Springs (zip code 90670) each had one WNV+ sample. This is the first sign of activity reported in Santa Fe Springs this year. So far in 2009, there have been 56 WNV+ mosquito samples reported within District boundaries, contributing to the 845 WNV+ samples reported for the entire State of California.

All three WNV+ positive dead birds were confirmed in Santa Clarita (zip code 91355), bringing the City's total dead bird count to five. There have been 19 WNV+ dead birds reported within District boundaries for the year, and a total of 405 reported for California.

With the warm weather likely continuing into the fall, the GLACVCD reminds residents to wear long sleeve shirts and pants and to use insect repellents approved by the Centers for Disease Control, containing DEET or Picaridin, when outdoors between dusk and dawn. West Nile virus is now endemic to California. There is no cure for West Nile virus, so individuals are encouraged to do their part to protect themselves from this potentially debilitating, and even fatal disease

In addition to wearing approved repellents and dressing appropriately, residents can take an active role in reducing the threat of West Nile virus in their neighborhoods by eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed:

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- 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
- 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.