



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

For Immediate Release

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Summer Heat Brings Increased West Nile virus Activity: Another Dead Bird
Confirmed in Van Nuys

Van Nuys, CA—As the heat rises this summer, so are the incidences of West Nile virus activity. The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has identified its 8th West Nile virus positive (WNV+) dead bird for the season, this time in Van Nuys (zip code 91406). Since April, the District has confirmed West Nile virus activity in dead birds collected from four San Fernando Valley locations and four locations in the Los Angeles Basin. In addition to the WNV+ dead birds, the District has identified the presence of virus in three mosquito samples this season collected from the Cities of Carson, Los Angeles, and Cerritos. The expanse of area in which virus activity has been found further confirms the need to take appropriate protective measures no matter where you live in Los Angeles County.

“We’re urging residents to take a proactive approach and do their part to protect themselves against mosquitoes and West Nile virus,” says Crystal Brown, Public Information Officer for GLACVCD. “Just like you apply sunscreen to protect yourself from the sun, you should apply mosquito repellent when outdoors to protect yourself from West Nile virus.”

In addition to applying repellent, 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 and taking the following steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites:

- 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.

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- 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.
- 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